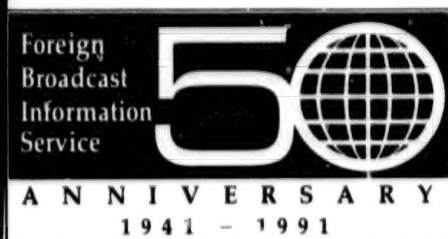


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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Egyptians To Aid in Kuwaiti Well Reconstruction

92AF0138B Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
8 Nov 91 p 5

[Article: "Al-Banbi Discusses Egypt's Participation in Restoring Kuwaiti Wells With Kuwait's Oil Minister"]

[Text] Kuwait, MENA—Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, reviewed at his meeting yesterday with Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Dr. Hammud al-Ruqbah the possibilities of Egyptian oil companies participating in operations to rehabilitate the destroyed Kuwaiti oil wells and to restore them to production, and also to restore Kuwait's oil terminals.

A rig belonging to the Egyptian Drilling Company will arrive in Kuwait shortly to take part with rigs of the Kuwait-owned Santa Fe Company in operations to drill new wells. Moreover, an Egyptian oil delegation will arrive in Kuwait tomorrow to discuss the details of cooperation between the two countries in the coming phase.

In a related development, Dr. al-Banbi met yesterday with Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir, UAE [United Arab Emirates] Oil Minister Yusuf 'Umayr Bin-Yusuf, and Syrian Oil Minister Tanyus Jayb [as published, presumably Matanyus Habib] to discuss technical cooperation in oil industries in the coming phase and to exchange views on a number of oil issues that are of common interest.

Kuwait, Egypt Create Joint Holding Company

92AF0138A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic
23 Oct 91 p 4

[Article: "Joint Holding Company With Capital of \$500 Million; Settling Status of Egyptians in Kuwait and Operating Shipping Line Between Two Countries"]

[Text] Within the context of the economic bilateral conflicts [as published] and of bolstering Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in all spheres, Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, who is currently visiting Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, held their first round of talks yesterday.

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has announced that the talks touched on the status of Egyptian workers in Kuwait, that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah has stressed that they are accorded the best treatment, that the door is open to them and to Egyptian companies to work in Kuwait, that the problems raised by the Egyptians have been solved, and that the next few days will witness firm Egyptian-Kuwaiti cooperation in all economic and commercial spheres. Dr. Sidqi added that President Husni Mubarak has issued clear instructions on freeing up Gulf and Kuwaiti investments in Egypt and eliminating all obstacles facing them. He has also stressed that a Kuwaiti holding

company will be established in Egypt in the next few days with a capital of \$500 million, and that an Egyptian-Kuwaiti airline company will also be established. This is in addition to studying the creation of a shipping line between the two countries.

The prime minister further said that the holding company, which will be founded in Egypt, will invest in all production and economic areas, especially in land reclamation, industrial and tourist projects, housing and development, and in all kinds of financial investment. This company will enjoy all benefits and exemptions given by the investment law to similar companies in Egypt. Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-Sabah has noted the excellent relations binding Egypt and Kuwait and emanating from Egypt's and President Mubarak's position on the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and from Egypt's provision of military, political, and information aid to Kuwait. He said that great credit goes to Egypt in liberating Kuwait.

Kuwait's crown prince announced that there are instructions from Kuwait's emir to offer all the necessary facilities to Egyptians workers in Kuwait. Direct instructions have also been issued to Kuwaiti ministers to facilitate their work. He also said that Egyptian firms will have a role in the area of building and reconstruction.

Engineer Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, the minister of reconstruction and new communities, has stated that the system of joint cooperation between Egyptian companies and Kuwaiti circles is now under discussion. It is expected that Egyptian firms will be accorded the same treatment given to Gulf companies.

Status of Egyptian Workers in Kuwait Reviewed

92AF0138C Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
30 Oct 91 p 5

[Article by Sharif Jaballah: "Harvest of Dr. Sidqi's Visit to Kuwait: Problem of Dues Owed Egyptian Workers in Kuwaiti Public Sector Ended"]

[Text] A prominent official accompanying the Egyptian prime minister on his recent visit to Kuwait has characterized the outcome of the visit, saying: "The visit is a political accomplishment by all criteria. It has accomplished numerous political and economic objectives. Agreement has been reached on solutions for numerous problems facing Egyptian workers in Kuwait." The official added, "Despite this, there are some pending issues that are now being discussed by Egyptian and Kuwaiti technicians and ministers so that decisions can be made on them in the near future."

Here end the Egyptian official's words on Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's three-day visit to Kuwait. But what has not ended are the dozens of questions raised by tens of thousands of Egyptians who have worked, or are working, in Kuwait on how to get their old dues and on the possibility of their return to the old jobs they held before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Moreover, what would be the status

of their old dues in case they manage to get new contracts? These and dozens of other questions are on the minds of Egyptian workers in Kuwait.

Initially, and before answering these questions and touching on the solutions accomplished by the Egyptian side for the problems of Egyptian workers in Kuwait, it can be said that the issue of the Egyptian presence and of the return of Egyptian labor to Kuwait has constituted an important focal point in the discussions between the Egyptian and Kuwaiti prime ministers. This is due, as Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait asserts, to the extremely complex nature of this particular issue, considering that it is a significant part of the issues of a society suffering from the consequences of the war. It is also due to slow decision-making and lack of clear vision on the part of the Kuwaiti side.

All this raises an important question concerning the shape of the current Egyptian presence in Kuwait. The Egyptian presence in Kuwait upon its liberation amounted to nearly 20,000 Egyptians, of whom 15,000 were residents of Kuwait who lived there during the occupation, plus 5,000 Egyptians who fled from Iraq's borders with Kuwait to Kuwait proper.

This issue has changed with the lapse of several months, and the total number of the Egyptian community now amounts to nearly 110,000 Egyptians with all kinds of specializations. This figure represents nearly 10 percent of the total number before the invasion, and 50 percent the foreign labor there now.

With the increasing number of Egyptians in Kuwait, the Egyptian Embassy there began to face numerous problems that the Egyptian community has encountered from the time of liberation to the present. The embassy has been able to overcome many of these problems, but some of them have remained unsolved. Discussions with the Kuwaiti side have continued.

Regarding recently-solved problems encountered by Egyptians, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait has said: "Egyptians emigrating from Iraq have been transferred to Egypt in cooperation with the UN Refugee Commission. Nearly 5,000 Egyptians have been transferred. Talks have also been held with the Kuwaiti side on the return of the labor force that was present in Kuwait. Numerous groups have returned and the total number has amounted to nearly 110,000. Moreover, the deposits placed by Egyptians with Kuwaiti banks have been transferred in cooperation with the Bank of Egypt. Numerous contacts have also been held at the official and popular levels with numerous Kuwaiti notables, and have led to the government's adoption of a decision to stop landlords, until September 1991, from opening apartments whose tenants are not present and to exempt tenants from rent payment during the invasion and up to June 1991."

The Kuwaiti authorities have also agreed to let some groups bring in their families, such as doctors, university professors, judges, and teachers—if both parents are in the teaching field.

Through the Bank of Egypt and a Kuwaiti accounting firm, it has been agreed that the end-of-service compensation for Egyptians who have not returned will be remitted through the firm after deducting a commission of only 1.5 percent, without the need for the beneficiary to come to Kuwait.

Defense services have also been provided to Egyptians charged with collaborating with the Iraqi occupation. The Kuwaiti side has shown flexibility where Egyptians are concerned. It has also been agreed with the Kuwaiti side to be content with the administrative decree to deport a number of Egyptians who have been charged with illegal entry and who have already been deported on the administrative decree.

There are also the dues owed Egyptian workers by the Kuwaiti private sector. The majority of this sector refuses to pay these dues on the grounds that it too, as well as its installations, has been harmed by the Iraqi invasion and cannot afford to pay the dues it owes those who used to work for it.

There is, moreover, the issue of the Egyptian workers who arrive in Kuwait on no-objection permits, which are sold through Egyptian middlemen. These Egyptians can find no work and are thus forced to stand in the streets in search of work. There are currently nearly 500 Egyptians in jails.

Moreover, there is the issue of bringing in the families of a number of groups in the Egyptian community, especially teachers. Previously, the Kuwaiti authorities refused to let Egyptian teachers bring in their families.

There are then the problems of Egyptian students enrolled in Kuwait. Numerous questions are raised on whether the Kuwaiti general high school certificate will be recognized in Egypt this year and whether the system of 3-percent enrollment in the universities for the children of Egyptians working abroad will continue to be enacted.

Some groups in the Egyptian community also demand that they be paid their wages for their work during the invasion. According to what they say, they continued to work in response to an appeal by his highness the crown prince addressed to those working in the areas of electricity and health. If these are the real questions facing Egyptian workers in Kuwait, then the question is: To what extent can these problems be confronted and solutions found for them in light of the Egyptian prime minister's visit to Kuwait?

The issue of "dues" tops the issues that the Egyptian delegation headed by Dr. Sidqi discussed during its visit to Kuwait. It has been agreed that the Kuwaiti Government will disburse the sums, to which Egyptians working

in the government and the Kuwaiti public sector are entitled, as soon as these workers present the required certificates attesting that they have paid the sums they owe for electricity, water, telephone bills, and similar certificates from banks. The same will be applied to Egyptians working in banks.

If the problem of the dues of Egyptians working in the Kuwaiti Government and public sector has found its way toward a prompt and decisive solution, then the problem of Egyptian workers in the Kuwaiti private sector is still pending, and is the subject of discussion and examination. Kuwaiti business owners assert that they cannot afford to pay the sums to which the workers are entitled for their work in the past because of the damage inflicted on their commercial establishments. In this regard, numerous proposals have been submitted to overcome this problem, including a proposal that Egyptians working in Kuwait resort to the courts to get their dues. This solution was suggested by Dr. Butrus Ghali in a quick interview that he has given. Another proposal is that these Egyptians be compensated, according to 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sa'udi, the economic adviser to the prime minister, from the UN Reparations Fund created for this purpose.

The third aspect of the problem of Egyptian dues is that the Kuwaiti authorities had postponed disbursing the end-of-service compensation for Egyptians who have returned to their work since the liberation with new contracts. Kuwait has viewed the end-of-service compensation for their work prior to the invasion as something that is postponed and that will not be paid unless the contract is terminated. However, the Kuwaiti side has promised to examine this issue and to take prompt steps to disburse these compensations.

Another important point agreed to by the Kuwaiti authorities is letting Egyptian teachers working in Kuwait bring in their families, provided that this is done in the next three months. Moreover, the Kuwaiti authorities are in the process of releasing 500 jailed Egyptians who constitute part of the workers who have arrived in Kuwait on no-objection permits sold to them by an Egyptian middleman. These people are unemployed, and this has compelled them to stand in the streets in search of work.

Importing individuals to work raises the issue of making it a prerequisite that any worker going to Kuwait must have a work contract so that he can be protected.

If the problems of Egyptians working in Kuwait have constituted an important focal point in the bilateral talks between the two countries, then strengthening economic and trade cooperation has been no less important. In this regard, it has been agreed to strengthen trade exchange through a number of axes. The first axis, according to Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa, is the establishment in Kuwait of a permanent Egyptian trade center, which will be allowed to sell to consumers directly and to import for itself.

UAE Minister Discusses Economic Ties To Egypt

92AF0134A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
14 Nov 91 p 4

[Interview with Economy and Commerce Minister Sa'id al-Ghubash; place and date not given; "Increasing Confidence in Egyptian Economy, New Policies in Right Direction; Regional Groupings No Substitute for Arab Economic Integration"]

[Text] In this brief, candid interview, Sa'id al-Ghabbash, the minister of economy and commerce of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], sheds light on bilateral Egyptian-UAE relations, the volume and development of inter-Arab trade, whether or not the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] is able to dispense with Arab economic unity, and his view on the crisis of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI].

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] In the opening session of the joint Egyptian-UAE committee, you stated that there has been a decline in trade averages between the two countries. How do you explain that? What governs UAE investment in Egypt? What governs the movement of Arab capital in the Arab world?

[al-Ghabbash] An absolute number must not be accepted as a result. An absolute number can be understood as reflecting a development in a given period. If the statistics provide no good cause for optimism, this can be attributed to the circumstances experienced by the Gulf countries this past year as the result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its effect on trade. However, we hope that, in the current climate, there will be a new view toward strengthening trade and cooperation between Egypt and investors in the UAE.

Regarding investment, all capital seeks two basic elements: investment yield and security. Capital will undoubtedly flow to wherever these two elements are available. The new economic policies being pursued by Egypt are steps in the right direction, as reflected by the increased flow of capital to Egypt, especially from investors in the GCC countries.

Regarding the movement of Arab capital in the Arab world, let me pose a question to you: Do all Egyptian investors invest their capital in Egypt? Do all Arabs in any Arab country invest their capital in their countries? The answer is that if they realize a return, they will invest. I believe that we must provide an investment climate, especially given that the markets of Europe, America, and the Far East are open to us. In order for Arab investors to invest their capital in a country, it is not enough for that country to be Arab. Other conditions must also be available to attract this capital.

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] According to statistics, a growing number of Egyptians are investing in Egypt, and their investments have increased from millions to billions.

[al-Ghabbash] This is very good. If we want to compare facts, we should examine the development that has occurred over previous years. Clearly, the flow of private Arab capital to Egypt has grown continually, which indicates growing confidence in the Egyptian economy and the good policies followed by Egypt, which are truly in the right direction.

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] For a long time, we have been calling for a common Arab market. However, the common denominators of this idea are few or insignificant. On the other hand, regional unions have achieved success regarding the idea of regional integration. Have these unions dispensed with Arab economic unification and a common Arab market?

[al-Ghabbash] I believe that the regional blocs that have emerged are no alternative to Arab economic integration and the need to take realistic, practical measures in the area of Arab economic cooperation. We must examine past experiments in this regard to determine whether their operating mechanisms are useful and compatible with economic developments and changes in the Arab world, or incompatible with developments occurring in the world. Based on this logic, I believe that we will reach conclusions which are characterized by rationality and gradualism and which are devoid of nationalist sentiments.

In my personal opinion, in general, past Arab economic action has yielded weak results that offer no cause for hope. Greater progress must be made under the auspices of the current, established framework in the Arab world.

[AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] The BCCI crisis has been preoccupying Egyptian public opinion. In the UAE, you have changed the name of the bank. In Egypt, we are dealing with the matter gradually and calmly. People expect the UAE to help the bank achieve some degree of liquidity. Given that the bank in London has a connection with the UAE, how do you view this crisis?

[al-Ghabbash] The bank that you say has undergone a name change is a domestic bank. BCCI has a minor share in it, and most of its shareholders are UAE citizens. This bank is subject to the supervision of the Central Bank in the UAE. Therefore, it has no direct connection to what happened to BCCI in London.

Also, BCCI was established outside of the UAE. If it bore an Arab name, it is not the only Arab bank I believe. Anything regarding the credit bank should be referred to the agencies that decided to close it.

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Analysis of Bush's Address at Conference

92AE0080D Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 38

[Article: "Reading of Bush's Speech at Madrid Conference"]

[Text] American President George Bush presented nothing new in his speech opening the Madrid Conference. All the points he raised in his speech had already occurred in American positions in statements, press conferences, or letters of assurance. The speech contradicted many predictions that Bush would abandon the policy of ambiguity and provide greater clarification of the American positions. Instead, he maintained an even greater degree of ambiguity than in some previous political statements, albeit that this ambiguity reflects America's desire to draw the conflicting parties into bilateral negotiations after having drawn them to Madrid.

Nevertheless, Bush's speech assumes great importance in the context of post-conference political developments, particularly the bilateral negotiations between the various parties on many Middle East issues. Despite its ambiguity, the speech sheds light on the kind of solution the American administration aims to realize in the region.

Disregarding the International Legitimate Authority

Unlike the March 6th proposals that formed the groundwork for Secretary of State Baker's tours, Bush mentioned the international legitimate authority [the United Nations] and implementing its resolutions, particularly 242 and 338, only in passing. Instead, he focused on direct negotiations and agreements to be reached by the opposing parties.

His hints that the negotiations are an internal matter depending on the conflicting parties, that the conference will impose no settlement on the participants, and that the American and Soviet role will be to help and motivate—these hints, along with his stress on direct bilateral negotiations, imply complete disregard for the international legitimate authority and its resolutions.

More significantly, Bush's speech substituted compromise and concessions by Arabs and Israelis for the implementation of international law, which opposes occupation by force and the acquisition of territorial gains by force and war. The danger can be clearly seen in his talk about redrawing state borders, without reference to the 1967 borders. In this he agrees with the Israeli interpretation of Resolution 242 as meaning withdrawal from [some] occupied lands, rather than the Arab interpretation that it means withdrawal from *the* [as published] occupied lands.

While he merely hints that negotiations will be conducted on the basis of 242 and 338, he proposes a compromise to Israel and the Arabs and to the Israelis and Palestinians in particular. He thus avoids the international legitimate authority and moves toward a new understanding of international legitimacy, bypassing legitimacy in its traditional sense or even in the sense on the basis of which the war against Iraq was fought.

Bush's speech reflects the fact that the United States is laying foundations for a new international legitimacy, starting from the Middle East. It is a legitimacy that does

not abrogate the legitimacy born on the debris of World War II, but ignores basic parts of it. America, in its international era, is thus steering away from international legitimate authority as Palestinians and Arabs understand it. This is what was clearly apparent in his speech.

Justice, Security in Speech

One notes that the American president focused on justice and security in his speech, which must be the basis of the settlement. He linked security and justice dialectally, but again in a new sense not linked to the international legitimate authority.

If one sets this concept in the context of the Palestinian and Arab view, theoretically it agrees almost completely; but from the practical, political point of view, as expressed in Bush's speech, things are quite different.

Although he focused on Israel's right to security, which initially means the Arab world's acceptance of Israel, and indirectly linked security to redrawing the political boundaries, he referred only ambiguously and partially to the Palestinian people and their rights. His reference was more humanitarian than political. He did not refer clearly to the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

Although he spoke in his speech about a temporary autonomous government for the Palestinians, he left the door wide open to ambiguity about this government's role and authority in the transition period. He clearly announced that the final arrangement, or even a general outline of what it will be, has not yet been decided, while at the same time he stressed Israel's security.

When he discussed the Israeli people, he discussed the security factor clearly; when he discussed the Palestinian people, he discussed the issue as no more than one of humanitarianism and suffering, even though he referred to granting the Palestinian people meaningful control over their lives and destiny.

In discussing the issue of Palestinian refugees in exile, the American president thoroughly isolated the issue from the national political cause of the Palestinian people. He placed the issue in a regional context bypassing the bilateral issue between Israel and the Arabs or between Israel and the Palestinian people.

While this American position is in overall conflict with the Palestinian and Arab position, which sees the refugee issue as a purely national Palestinian issue linked to the right of return espoused by the PLO with Arab agreement, it is in complete agreement with the Israeli position.

Positive Signs

Nevertheless, Bush's speech contained a number of positive signs for the Palestinian people—particularly the need to respect their hopes and aspirations in any solution and for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to control their lives and future.

The American speech has placed the Palestinian delegation in Madrid face to face with the American position, which is changing in a desirable way so as to harmonize with Palestinian demands to a reasonable extent.

Gazans Comment on Opening of Conference

92AE0080C Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI
in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 39

[Article: "Opening Speeches at Conference as Seen by Gaza Personalities"]

[Text]

Dr. Dhuni al-Wahidi (Gaza)

"The two international speeches were a restatement of the American and Soviet positions supporting the search for solutions based on international legitimacy. However, the American president avoided mentioning the phrase 'the Palestinian people,' except in two places, and merely alluded to 'Palestinians' without the definite article. This could mean that the American position is retreating from an attempt to find a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian people. On the other hand, Egypt's speech justifiably touched our minds and emotions. It truly expressed most of the Palestinian principles, such as self-determination and the status of Jerusalem. We value this highly and hope that the true meaning of self-determination will be clearly understood as the right to return and to establish a Palestinian state."

Professor Fayiz Abu-Rahmah (Gaza)

"The speeches were good. I would mention especially the speech of the Egyptian foreign minister, 'Amr Musa. The problem remains the Middle East problem. It requires enlightened, moderate thinking that can resolve it. We hope this meeting will help all parties follow a moderate policy far removed from extremism. Thus we shall reach hoped-for results."

Al-Haj Hashim 'Ata al-Shawwa (Gaza)

"We hope that God makes this conference successful in solving our problem justly; that will be the crowning touch. The main opening speeches were good, but the fact is that no one can say what is going to happen; so I am still not very optimistic. The conference could fail because of Israel's stubborn position. Chances for success and failure seem about equal. The speech by 'Amr Musa was good and favorable to the Palestinian side."

Lawyer Khalid al-Qudrah (Khan Yunus)

"I listened to the opening speeches, especially what Presidents Bush and Gorbachev said. Their opening speeches contained general principles. They did not shun the main demands of the Palestinian delegation,

although they did not actually express the idea of commitment to any definite solutions. The Soviet speech clearly indicated that the two countries, the Soviet Union and the United States, would not stand by as onlookers, but were truly and seriously interested in reaching a peaceful solution of the Palestinian problem and the Middle East problem in general. I wish I had heard Bush, in particular, take a stand on halting settlement. He seems to have left everything for the negotiating table without expressing any stand that could provoke any of the parties. He surely knows that the question of stopping settlement is a priority of the Palestinian delegation. In this regard, I can only praise the speech of 'Amr Musa. The Egyptian statement was splendid, strong, and comprehensive. It truly set forth all the Palestinian national principles. It announces genuine Egyptian support for the Palestinian delegation at the peace conference."

Professor As'ad al-[Saftawi] (Gaza)

"I hope the representatives of the Arab delegations cooperate with the Palestinian delegation—for both the problem and the responsibility are common—to achieve what the Palestinian people desire: establishment of a just peace based on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination like other peoples of the earth. We know our way well. We did not go to this conference with our heads bowed; rather, we still consider ourselves victorious, for we are fighting our enemy all the day, and not a single Palestinian child has surrendered. If what our people want is not brought to pass, we will not submit to any pressures, whatever their source. Today we believe that this conference is the practical touchstone for the credibility of all the delegations, states, and organizations participating in it and that history will show no mercy."

Professor 'Abd-al-Fattah Hamid (Gaza)

"We consider the battle for peace, on which the Palestinian people are embarking under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, one of the fiercest battles they have ever entered in the history of their long struggle. It represents an objective necessity dictated by the local, Arab, and international circumstances of the Palestinian struggle, so that they can obtain their legitimate rights in accordance with the resolutions of the international legitimate authority and the Palestinian peace initiative. We hope what was said in the opening speeches about justice, equality, and freedom will be translated into practical reality, for the Palestinian people are the world's people most in need of justice, freedom, and equality. We can therefore say that the ball is now in the American and Israeli court, as is the extent of their credibility. This does not prevent hope and optimism about a promising, bright future for the Palestinian people, whatever the difficulties and obstacles."

Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar (Gaza)

"In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Everyone knows that the Madrid Conference is an ceremonial opening conference that will produce nothing new in the known positions. One certainly does not expect there to be any solutions at the conference itself. Bush made no reference to the Palestinian state and did not speak clearly about the rights of the Palestinian people. America's position is known and has been announced previously; there is nothing new in it."

"The Soviet speech was a restatement of American policy about the new international legitimacy and therefore reflects the new state of subservience. We sensed no warmth of support in it for the Palestinian people. Indeed, we sensed justification of the Soviet agreement to reestablish relations with Israel as a precondition for participation in the peace process."

"'Amr Musa's position was nothing new, although he was the clearest speaker after the representative of the European countries. So there is nothing we can consider new in the arena, and this is what is to be expected from the remaining delegations."

"We have to look at it from two angles. First, Israel is pressing to finish its bilateral negotiations with the Arab states as quickly as possible in order to normalize relations, open borders, participate in developing regional energy sources, and other announced objectives."

"On the other hand, Israel does not want to finish negotiations with the Palestinians until there are new developments that change the nature of the situation so that what it desires can come to pass. The Arab states know this. Some of them have therefore announced that no bilateral agreements will be signed until after the Palestinian problem is resolved. We do not trust this announcement, because in the end they cannot anger the master, America. I think the conference is a sharp setback for the Palestinian cause and has dangerous dimensions not understood by all the clowns who treat the issue as if it were a wedding party that could be finished in a single day."

Faysal al-Husayni on Status of Jerusalem

92AE0080B *Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI*
in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 44

[Interview with Palestinian delegation member Faysal al-Husayni by Mashhur al-Habazi in Madrid on 30 October: "Jerusalem Could Be Open, But Sovereignty Over the Arab Part Must Be Ours"; first paragraph is AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI introduction]

[Text] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, head of the advisory committee of the Palestinian delegation negotiating in Madrid, said that Jerusalem could be an open city. There could be coordination and cooperation between the two parts of the city, but we have sovereignty over the Arab

part. This was said in a special interview by AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI's special correspondent to the conference. Part of the interview follows.

[al-Habazi] Are you optimistic?

[al-Husayni] Naturally I am optimistic. We will demand the application of international law, although it is not an easy period.

[al-Habazi] What is your comment on the demonstrations in support and in opposition within the country?

[al-Husayni] Given the difficult choice we face at a moment like this, naturally there is support and there is opposition. We continue to think that the support and the opposition are still within a healthy democratic framework. We hope they continue to be.

[al-Habazi] What might happen if Israel refuses to stop settlement?

[al-Husayni] I think Israel's refusal to stop settlement would be a torpedoing operation and a mine laid in the road of the process. In every step we take in this process it is as if we were walking a mine field that must be crossed for the sake of peace. These obstacles and mines—for example the settlements—must be removed.

[al-Habazi] How do you expect Arab support for the Palestinian delegation to be?

[al-Husayni] From our contacts with various Arab states, especially Jordan and Egypt, we can say that they will support us to the utmost extent on the various levels.

[al-Habazi] What about Syria?

[al-Husayni] Syria is also embarking on a joint battle with us. Coordination with Syria has to date (30 October) been limited to the five-member committee. We hope there will also be bilateral coordination.

[al-Habazi] Could the Palestinian delegation accept that Jerusalem continue to remain united?

[al-Husayni] Let us say that we want our Palestinian capital to be East Jerusalem. Jerusalem could be an open city. There could be coordination and cooperation between the two parts of the city, but we have sovereignty over the Arab part.

[al-Habazi] It is said that Shamir will try to apply self-rule according to your talks with Moshe Amirav.

[al-Husayni] According to the talks with Moshe Amirav, there may be a certain idea that Shamir wants to reach. We reached a certain stage. We reached the form of the state. We had a discussion about only two subjects on which we reached no agreement: defense and foreign relations. We completed the rest of the subjects and were tending toward the formation of a complete state, including legislation—one that would include the city of Jerusalem.

[al-Habazi] On what basis?

[al-Husayni] On the basis that it would be a city including two capitals of two countries.

[al-Habazi] What is the minimum that the Palestinians could accept for self-government?

[al-Husayni] We are talking about a transitional period leading to an independent Palestinian state.

Hebron Leaders Discuss Infrastructure Projects

92AE0070A *Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic*
23 Oct 91 p 3

[Article by Jamal al-Shuwayki: "Announcement Regarding Permit To Build Cement, Iron Factories; Issues Are Telephones, Schools, Taxes, [Family] Reunification, Central Market"]

[Text] In the office of the mayor of Hebron, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zir, a meeting was held on the morning of 22 October 1991, attended by Hebron's governor, Col. Eli Grossman, and a number of his advisors; Hebron's deputy mayor, Khalil 'Uthman Shahin; members of the Municipal Council; al-Hajj Hashim 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, president of Hebron's Chamber of Commerce; Muhammad Rashid al-Ja'bari, director of education and training; 'Abd-al-Fattah Dudin, mayor of Dawrah; Isma'il Abu-Hamid, mayor of Yattah; Dr. Hafiz 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, head of the Friends of the Sick Society; and a number of dignitaries, merchants, industrialists, and directors of organizations and associations. A number of tradesmen from Hebron's central market also attended.

To begin the meeting, the governor of Hebron reviewed the vital projects in which the Israeli administration has actively participated, such as constructing several schools; opening roads; establishing administration offices in the areas of [Idhna], Dawrah, and Yattah; digging wells to supply all residents with water; and the administration's assistance in granting work permits to the citizens, reuniting families, etc.

He then said: "The economy in the governorate must be developed in order to absorb labor and lessen the load on workers going to far-off places outside the city. The administration has given the green light to build a cement factory in Hebron, along with another permit for an iron factory.

"The administration will give the necessary easements to all those who invest in constructing the factories, and will endeavor to grant them work permits. It will also grant reunification to each investor abroad who wants to invest his funds here." The governor said that the income tax will be lowered from 13 to 5 percent as of 1 January 1992. Moreover, the civilian administration will grant a permit to every citizen to enter Israel."

The governor also spoke about assistance to build playgrounds for schools and the opening of other schools in

several villages during the coming year, for which the administration has contributed the lion's share.

Regarding telephones, he said that as of 1 January 1992, 3,000 new telephone lines will be earmarked for citizens in the city and certain villages. That will be the first new exchange aside from the administration's offices in Hebron. Moreover, an automatic exchange will be opened in the village of Idhna to service neighboring villages, and villages west and south of the city. Water networks will be developed in Bani Na'im and the village of Taffuh.

With regard to expanding the boundaries of municipalities and councils, the governor said: "In my opinion, the boundaries are sufficient for the density of population." He said that green cards will be cancelled, and the original cards returned to large numbers of youths.

Following that, the discussions were opened up to those present. The mayor, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zir, spoke about the municipal debt, which is piling up on the citizenry, amounting to 12 million Israeli shekels, and about the central vegetable market, "al-Hasbah," telling the governor that it was necessary to reopen al-Hasbah and resolve its issue as soon as possible, because it is a vital artery for the city. He also asked that a permit be granted to construct the Beersheba road and al-Sahah Street. He requested the number of transactions for family reunifications be increased, and he also asked the governor to approve construction of a "sports stadium," because the governorate desperately needs one.

Next, al-Hajj Hashim 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, president of Hebron's Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture, stated: "We have heard a great deal and have submitted a large number of requests. How nice it would be if these requests were translated into reality. We would leave this meeting with something positive, because I would ask the governor to stop collecting income tax from the citizens, and to open Hebron's central market, which was closed because of huge material losses. I would hope that the governor will issue his decree now to open the market, stop entering the citizens' transactions into the computer, and give citizens the freedom to pursue their business as was done in the past, before the Gulf war."

Al-Natshah turned to a memorandum that he had submitted to the minister of defense, which contained 13 items. He said: "We want action, not words, to abolish every transaction or method that results in wasting time, and which have been imposed on the citizenry by the authorities."

Muhammad Rashid al-Ja'bari, director of education and training, spoke next: "A number of governorate residents have donated land upon which to build schools. I request the administration to increase financial support. The city needs to build a school in the northern section." He thanked the donors, as well as the administration for the assistance it has given.

One of the attendees, 'Arif al-Ja'bari, raised the issue of the exorbitant costs of insurance and licenses for cabs. He asked the authorities to allow the expansion of municipal boundaries and to establish schools containing all phases of education in every quarter of the city. He also raised the issue of reuniting families of professors who have contracts to work in universities and institutes, and who reside there for long periods.

The director of public relations for the Chamber of Commerce, Muhi-al-Din Sayyid Ahmad al-Nimr, spoke on behalf of merchants in the market. He explained that merchants are conducting their business despite the collective obstacles imposed by the authorities. He said that the behavior of Israeli soldiers is extremely bad. He asked that al-Hasbah be reopened because of human and social needs, and that the transit of fruit and vegetable trucks be reorganized.

Dr. Hafiz 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah asked that troops be punished when they behave illegally—during the time a traffic ban has been imposed on the city—against citizens who have obtained permits to travel during that ban.

A journalist, Ahmad al-Shuwayki al-Rifa'i, also spoke, raising the issue of wives who have been married in Hebron, but who came from Jordan. He asked the governor to increase their residence period to six months or one year, and to help them in reunification transactions.

One of the cultural center owners asked the governor to increase the cultural centers' allocations, along the lines of cultural centers in other areas. He also requested that roadblocks between Hebron and West Bank cities be lifted, and freedom to travel granted to every citizen going to these cities.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the governor said: "We will consider all requests submitted by those present. We will also study them in the near future. We will not close the door to citizens and their requests."

Editorial Claims Delegation PLO Body

92AE0080A Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI
in Arabic 2 Nov 91 pp 2-3

[Editorial: "The PLO Delegation"]

[Text] Although the PLO has been excluded officially from the Madrid conference through American pressure and Arab collapse, excluding the PLO in practice is an impossibility—nothing but a fantasy that tempts the Bush administration and the Shamir government. Despite the restrictions that prevent the Palestinian delegation in Madrid from proclaiming itself part of the PLO, the truth known to the PLO's bitterest enemies is that the delegation is part of the PLO in formation, method of selection, persons, authority, and down to its smallest details.

The PLO is not the just Palestinian leadership in Tunis, not just the National Council, not just Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]; it is the Palestinian people—in the diaspora as in the occupied territory. It is the PLO in Tulkarm as it is in Tunis. As Ezer Weizman said a few months ago, as other Israeli officials and non-officials have admitted, and as is the reality, the PLO is not a body of gelatin, or a superstructure, or a leadership without a base, as the Bush administration seems to be trying to convince itself.

The Palestinian delegation attending the Madrid conference would not have gone to the conference—it would not have been formed, nor would there have been any dialogue with Baker—had the Palestinian leadership rejected it or not agreed to it, and if the leadership had not formed it. There would have been no attendance or participation in the Madrid conference if the PLO, with its leadership and base, had refused to deal with the American political process that Bush led in order to arrive at the Madrid conference.

That being the case, we are not deceiving ourselves when we say that the Palestinian delegation in Madrid is the PLO delegation and the delegation of the Palestinian people wherever they are—in the occupied territory and in the diaspora. This is not diminished by the fact that the delegation is from the occupied territory. The Palestinian people, in its essence, personality, and being is not subject to residence considerations, tribal considerations, or any other considerations. It is subject to but one consideration—that the PLO is its political entity and that any Palestinian represents this entity, wherever he may be—in the occupied territory or in the Palestinian diaspora.

Those who are deceiving themselves are the members of the Bush administration and the Shamir government, when they see in this delegation a delegation isolated from the PLO or think that it represents the Palestinian people only in the occupied territory; for national affiliation, with all that it implies in terms of a single people and single goals, is stronger than every official and propagandistic coloration and stronger than any protocols.

When the PLO—or more precisely, the Palestinian leadership—approved (as it did) the Palestinian delegation that went to Madrid, this was merely a part of Palestinian diplomacy—a tactic aimed at transcending the historical moment through which our Palestinian cause and the Arab region in general are passing. There was no bypassing the principles of nationalism, especially complete withdrawal from the land occupied in 1967 and our people's right to self-determination on their land.

The realization of national goals, among them preservation of Palestinian identity and selfhood in this historical period of radical regional and international changes visible to everyone, forces the Palestinian leadership to resort to this difficult tactic in order to realize national goals and emerge from this delicate and difficult historical moment.

The Palestinian delegation to Madrid, in the form in which it came to be, cannot be a type of alternative leadership or of Palestinian retreat from the sole legitimate leadership of the PLO and its leaders. Anyone who deludes himself into believing that the delegation, despite its conditions, is a type of alternative leadership should always face the fact that this delegation in its smallest details is part of the PLO. The alternative leadership about which the Shamir government and others dream is an illusion or fantasy that has ensconced itself in historically and politically blind minds.

Any reasonable person understands that no alternative leadership can emerge, no matter what harsh and difficult conditions confront our Palestinian people. He understands that the Palestinian delegation to Madrid is the PLO delegation. He understands that no one thinks of taking any Palestinian position without the Palestinian leadership. The Bush administration fully understands this. It is stupidity to imagine for a minute that it does not understand that the Palestinian delegation is the PLO delegation. The Bush administration accepted the Palestinian delegation—compelled, because it had no other choice.

When we say clearly that the Palestinian delegation is the PLO delegation, America, which understands that the delegation is the PLO delegation, must also understand that the official, public, and direct presence of the PLO in the negotiations and the solution is implicit and inescapable if America is serious about continuing the political process to a solution after the conference. America must understand that any attempt to impair the PLO's active role will be doomed in advance to failure.

The American administration seems to understand this. It understands that it is impossible to keep the PLO away in practice and that the present Palestinian position cannot turn into an alternative leadership to the PLO, even though this fantasy doubtlessly tempts the Shamir government, which, like the Bush administration, is deceiving itself when it insists on keeping the PLO away.

A short review will enable us to say that the Palestinian delegation to Madrid is part of the PLO and its strategy. The delegation that met Baker on his first shuttle tour in the region and even in the last meeting before Madrid informed Baker in writing and verbally that its authority to agree to the meeting and on all issues it discussed came from the Palestinian leadership, that it was part of the PLO, and that the delegation members without the PLO and the leadership were nothing and represented nothing. That being so, anyone who says that the Palestinian delegation is not the PLO delegation and that the PLO is not its authority is deceiving himself, whether he be the Shamir government or the American administration.

The Bush administration should stop deceiving itself and stop this blatant fraud. It should stop giving cover to the deception and turn directly to the Palestinian leadership. It should invite that leadership to attend and participate in the political solution. It should admit the truth that it knows, that the PLO, first and last, is the decisionmaker in the Palestinian arena.

When we say time after time that the Palestinian delegation to Madrid is the PLO delegation, we are merely stating the truth. We will not agree to hide the truth or bypass it publicly by any outward formulas that merely reflect fantasies.

EGYPT

Mubarak Seen Considering Successorship

92AF0059C London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
15 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Yesterday Egyptian President Husni Mubarak handed presidential assistant Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah the Republican Medal, awarded to him on 15 April 1989 after his reassignment from his post of prime minister and minister of defense.

At the same time, President Mubarak awarded the Republican Medal in the name of former National Assembly speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, who was assassinated in 1991. He handed the medal to his son, Dr. Ayman al-Mahjub, on 13 October 1991.

Coming on the same day, the awards to Abu-Ghazalah and Dr. al-Mahjub have excited the interest of some observers, who consider them to be President Mubarak's response to reports over the last few months of the Egyptian president's intention to appoint Abu-Ghazalah to be his vice president.

This speculation was going around when the President appointed Abu-Ghazalah to chair a commission on coordinating public sector activities last year. The rumor resurfaced at the beginning of this year, when President Mubarak commissioned him to go to the United States and contact members of Congress during its debate of President Bush's decision to cancel Egypt's military debts.

In the past two months, Abu-Ghazalah's name has cropped up again as a vice-presidential candidate. However, the name of Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib has also been mentioned, especially as Lieutenant General al-Tantawi was appointed to replace him as minister of defense. Abu-Talib was selected as minister of defense and donned his uniform after a long period in a civilian post as the governor of Cairo.

Awarding the same medal in special ceremonies at presidential headquarters to both Abu-Ghazalah and the son of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, who was shot to death in his car, could be considered an indication against the likelihood of Abu-Ghazalah assuming the position of vice

president, a position that has been vacant since President Mubarak assumed the presidency after the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat in 1981.

This unlikelihood increases the possibility of selecting another candidate for the position. Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib is considered to have the best chance of obtaining it, even though surprises in the selection process cannot be discounted.

It seems certain, however, that President Mubarak is seriously considering acquiring a vice president, especially as he has recently completed ten years as the president of Egypt. This makes it essential that the position of the second man should not remain vacant.

Peace Conference Termed 'Great Arab Success'

92AF0142A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
8 Nov 91 pp 4-7

[Article by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "Peace Conference: Harvest and Expectations"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Convocation of the [Madrid] conference is, in itself, a great Arab success for many reasons:

First, the conference was a demand on which the Arabs insisted on the day after the glorious October War. What obstructed its convocation was the [global] polarization, the cold war, and the remnants of Kissinger's ideas, which excluded any Soviet role in the Middle East. When detente was accomplished and the U.S. and Soviet sides felt reassured that their Middle East interests dictated stability in the region, the conference became possible.

Yes, the circumstances and the reality have changed. The Soviet Union no longer holds the same position that it held in the past on the Arab-Israeli conflict. After having been the ally, it has become more neutral and closer to the U.S. position. The language Bush and Gorbachev used in Madrid was completely identical. But something of the sort has also happened to the Israelis. International detente has reduced their place in the universal U.S. policies and, perhaps for the first time, there are lines separating what is a U.S. interest and what is an Israeli interest.

Second, the conference has refuted allegations which Israel had implanted in the minds of the entire world about the Arabs, who refuse direct negotiations because they have no command of confrontation within a dialogue, because they lack argument and logic, and because they harbor in their crooked souls plans to destroy Israel! To be very frank, the Arab rejection of direct dialogue with Israel has been a weak link in the Arab position. Public opinion has not been able to understand the true causes and motives of this weakness.

Everybody was asking: Why don't you sit with them to speak and listen, accept what you want, and reject what

you cannot accept? The Arab answer came in the form of a faltering and unpalatable stammer.

In Madrid, everybody sat down to assure the entire world that Arabs are capable of confrontation within a dialogue. Palestinians sat with Israelis, gaining everybody's respect and displaying inexhaustible patience, enlightenment, great flexibility, adherence to the right position, and intelligence which foiled the Israelis' opportunity to cling to formalities. They said whatever they had on their mind, including the fact that they will not relinquish their political leadership, which exists with the consensus of the Palestinians at home and abroad.

When a member of the Israeli delegation objected to a member of the Palestinian delegation who was wearing a Palestinian *kufiyah* [head cover] similar to that of Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian responded, "I will not object if you wear a yarmulke right now."

Also in Madrid, Syrians and Israelis sat together for five hours in a single session during which no progress was made. Then both sides emerged, each telling his story. Consequently, the whole world understood that Israel doesn't want to put Resolutions 242 and 338, which are the basis of the conference and its legal support, on the discussion table.

The third reason confirming that the conference has been an Arab success is what everybody knows that Shamir went to Madrid involuntarily. According to MA'AREV, he went to the peace conference as if he were going to a funeral. If he hadn't been confident that the U.S.-Israeli relations couldn't withstand a wager or a gamble, he would have clung to his numerous conditions, which would have simply meant no convocation of the conference.

Shamir has known from the beginning that the conference will not serve his interest because it blocks the path to accomplishing the objective which he does not conceal, namely, to devour the occupied Arab territories so as to create the greater Israel under circumstances which seem to be opportune. He has exclusive possession of deterrent nuclear weapons, he controls the occupied territories, and he implants in them more settlements every day so that these settlements can absorb the waves of Soviet immigrants. Meanwhile, the Palestinians are experiencing decline in the PLO's influence because of the Gulf crisis, not to mention the absence of the Soviet role that had supported the Arabs.

Convocation of the conference is, in itself, a great Arab success for the aforementioned reasons. I believe that the harvest of the phase has served the interest of the Arab parties, who have affirmed with clarity that leaves no place for doubt that they want a just and balanced peace built on implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, that they want normal relations with Israel built on neighborly conditions and joint cooperation, and that there is nothing to prevent a regional cooperation that ensures stability and progress

for the Middle East if occupied Arab land is restored to its owners and if the Palestinians get their right to self-determination.

It was not only the addresses delivered by the Arab delegations to the conference that reflected this Arab consensus on the need for comprehensive and just peace. This consensus has also been reflected in the presence of observers from the Gulf Cooperation Council, the presence of Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan, and the contacts made behind the scenes between Riyadh, Cairo, and Damascus to surmount any obstacles that might face the negotiating Arab delegations. To put it briefly, it became evident to the whole world that the Arab delegations present at the Madrid Conference rely on a single Arab political decision that underlines the peace option and confirms that the Arabs are prepared to shoulder its consequences and responsibilities. Then there came the Palestinian demonstrations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip—demonstrations holding up olive branches to tell the entire world very clearly that the predominant tendency on Palestinian soil wants a just peace and supports the Palestinian delegation's mission in Madrid.

Yes, there are some forces among the Arabs that oppose the peace conference. Some of them continue to have doubts about the credibility of the U.S. position if the situation should require firmness to dictate correct implementation of the Security Council resolutions, which do not justify seizing other people's land with the force of arms. But most of the opponents belong to small Palestinian factions who fear that their role will disappear if a comprehensive and just peace triumphs; or they belong to the Muslim Brotherhood tendency and the radical factions that have followed, since the Gulf crisis, an anarchic course which seeks to exploit any opportunity to destabilize the region's governments, falsely believing that they will be the heirs to power.

It is surprising that Egypt's AL-SHA'B would come up with a headline saying: "If you cannot, then we are up to it." I wonder where this eligibility and this ability come from, unless AL-SHA'B believes that Iran will mobilize a million troops to liberate Palestine!

From where, how, when, and who gives them weapons, considering that Iran itself was buying weapons from Israel?

It would behoove this tendency to hide and retreat to the shadow in shame, in wake of its latest follies in Algeria and of its disgraceful position in the Gulf crisis, when it helped Saddam to hurl Iraq into an imminent catastrophe, lauding his rash gamble because he, according to what AL-SHA'B said at the time, "will not lose the battle. Not a chance in a million."

Yes, there are among the Arabs those who fight the conference. But they are not the majority of the Arab people. Moreover, they are less of an influence on, and a danger to, the peace process than the radical Israeli forces.

The harvest of the first phase of the peace conference has been in the Arab interest because Israeli intransigence has seemed to be isolated from all international support. The U.S. position has made it clear that the conference is based on the principle of land for peace. When U.S. President Bush neglected to reaffirm this phrase in his opening speech to the conference, his secretary of state hastened to reaffirm, on the following day, that the conference is built on this principle and that peace, security, and land are interconnected elements that are difficult to separate. The Soviet position has been clear because the Soviet foreign minister spoke very explicitly about the need to withdraw the Israeli forces from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. The European position has been clear, stressing that it is necessary to stop building settlements in the occupied territories and to return the land to its owners.

At the Madrid Conference, the Israelis made a provocative and extremely poor presentation, which was made even uglier by their show of force in South Lebanon through the constant artillery shelling of small villages close to the border areas, and by parading their arrogance at the conclusion of the activities of the first phase of the peace conference through their inauguration of a new settlement on the Golan Heights over the ruins of an Arab Druze village in the presence of three of Shamir's cabinet ministers.

This will not be beneficial to Israel in the near future, because Israel will not have the final word on the peace process. Israel is a strong fundamental party but it is not so strong that it can flout a wide-spread international will that wants peace and stability in the Middle East, or that it can ridicule the two superpowers who tend the peace efforts.

The delegations will resume their bilateral talks within two weeks. The talks may take place in Washington. I believe that the agenda has become clear to the negotiating committees. The Palestinians agree to self-rule as a transitional phase leading to acknowledging their right to self-determination. But they believe that self-rule will become meaningless if the Israeli occupation forces continue to maintain their present conditions in the occupied territories, or if the Israelis continue to build their settlements there. The Syrians agree to any mutual security steps, but they are not prepared to relinquish a single inch of the Golan. The Lebanese want a prompt withdrawal from the south that is not linked to the conclusion of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. All are prepared to discuss the issues of regional cooperation at the broadest level if the bilateral negotiation committees make progress toward a solution.

It is not in Shamir's interest for this to happen, because Shamir is still ruled by the Likud beliefs that insist that the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem are Israeli lands. He will not be able to shed his skin. Simultaneously, he cannot fight the negotiations or refuse to take part.

It is most likely that he will try to gain time by slowing the pace of the negotiation process so that it may crawl like a tortoise. Meanwhile, what is required is to produce some real results on the ground in order to open the way to confidence-building steps. The first of these steps is halting the construction of settlements in the occupied territories.

Shamir will demand an exorbitant and unacceptable price to stop the construction of settlements, and he will try as hard as he can to turn his negotiations with the Syrian side into an audible fight with the aim of reflecting the Syrian position incorrectly.

Shamir's current concern is to lure the Syrians into mutual acts of provocation similar to those witnessed in the final session of the conference, so that the world can see in the Arab side the objective counterpart to his rejectionist and intransigent position. The conference will thus culminate in failure and the responsibility for this failure will be lost among the tribes! Shamir initiated the attack when he assaulted the Syrian regime, accusing it of terrorism and hostility to Jews. Faruq al-Shar's response was fair and mandatory. But a repeat of what has happened may turn the negotiation arena into a battlefield. This is Shamir's hope and objective.

It is also Shamir's concern to ruin any joint Arab coordination so that the Arab delegations will appear divided and in disagreement in the second phase of negotiations. He hopes that this will expand the sphere of inter-Palestinian disagreement or will give the Arab rejectionist forces the pretexts to work actively to break the peace process.

Shamir's third concern is to do whatever is possible to prevent the U.S. from turning into an active partner and to keep the U.S. role at a minimum. For this task, Shamir will use the U.S. Jewish lobbies, which will be ready to accuse Bush and his administration of delivering Israel to the Arabs if the Americans intervene with a proposal that does not please Shamir's government.

There is no doubt that all these expectations enter into the consideration of all the Arab parties who know that Madrid is nothing but the start on a long and difficult path that has to be traveled. I believe that everybody, excluding Shamir, wants this process to be completed successfully.

Convocation of the conference has constituted a turning point in the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict and an extremely important historic event in the history of the Middle East. The people who spent eight months preparing for the conference are the first to realize that the conference must continue and must produce results, because the price of failure is exorbitant and frightening. Failure means that any sensible and rational option will lose its credibility. Its exorbitant cost will be anarchy, violence, greater hatred and malice, and the risk of a Middle East dominated by terrorism and radicalism. So, there is no alternative to a conference that produces a

complete outcome, regardless of whether Shamir or somebody else is in the Israeli negotiation seat.

Broad NDP Leadership Changes Expected

92AF0059B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
14 Oct 91 p 6

[Exclusive Report]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Egypt has begun its countdown to extensive changes that are expected on the political and economic levels and which were announced by President Husni Mubarak in his speech celebrating Labor Day at the beginning of May 1991.

At the political level, the initial step toward rebuilding the governing National Democratic Party [NDP] in Egypt through elections will effectively begin 20 Oct 91. According to the NDP schedule, the elections are set to last until July 1992, the time for convening the sixth party congress. The party leader; members of the political bureau; and members of the party's secretariat, including the secretary general and his four assistants, will be elected.

The NDP decision to reconstitute its organizational and leadership structure through the democracy of elections opens up a new phase of party activity in Egypt and even of the democratic experiment, which began by adopting the multi-party system in 1967. This comes after practicing, for the 12 years following the formation of the party, what might be called the "democracy of choice." Reality indicates that what is happening to the majority party is being reflected, directly or indirectly, on all other parties, or rather, on party politics in Egypt in general.

The above is the opinion of NDP Secretary General Dr. Yusuf Wali, which he expressed in a previous interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT.

It seems that the reasons for the expected positive outcome of the NDP elections on party activity in Egypt in general are not limited to its being the majority party. Logically, the future leadership of the NDP, chosen through these elections, will also directly influence the relationship between the NDP and the opposition parties. The facts indicate that in Egypt, the two sides of party and political activity equation—the governing and opposition parties—have swung back and forth in the conduct of their relationship in the past ten years. In spite of the numerous clashes between the two sides, they have been very careful to maintain an open-door policy in their bilateral relations.

"Our relations with opposition parties are based on the firm position that the points of agreement that we share far exceed those of disagreement, which are often concerned with details.

A New Cabinet

Sources close to the NDP indicate that arrangements for announcing a new cabinet are now being made as the concluding step of currently projected reforms. These sources predict that the new cabinet will be led by the current prime minister, Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. This is the third cabinet change that Dr. Sidqi has led. From the time he assumed the leadership of the Egyptian Government in 1986, he has demonstrated practical, total success in achieving what is required in the economic field.

In assurances to "AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT," sources close to the NDP indicated that concluding steps for economic reform and creating the basis for supply-and-demand and applying a market economy will take priority in the make-up of the new cabinet.

Licensing New Parties

While the previous stage of party politics had witnessed some restraints on the formation of new parties in accordance with the New Parties' Licensing Law, which empowered the Political Parties Commission to reject or license the formation of new parties, prominent NDP sources have assured AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Political Adjudication Organization is now earnestly formulating a project to abolish all restraints on the formation of political parties, which is to be presented to the Egyptian parliament. That includes enfranchising parties and allowing them to operate freely.

These sources also indicated that the liberal phase, which Egyptian society is now undergoing in both the political and economic spheres necessitates consideration for the formation of a new party to represent the liberal opposition. The New Wafd Party has failed to play this role in the past years.

This does not mean that there would be an allocation of roles for the parties, but the nature of the changes that will take place in Egyptian society, already beginning to manifest themselves, dictate such. This was indicated by a prominent NDP source.

It seems that NDP leaders still recall the positions of some parties during the Gulf crisis and the war to liberate Kuwait, which went against the consensus of the Egyptian people as a result of miscalculations and self-promotion.

In any case, the political message of the NDP leadership always affirms that "our relations with the opposition are governed by the genuine feeling that national identity and ties of kinship must rise above any party ties or benefits."

Perhaps the assurances of the NDP leadership will reveal a new opening in party relationships that will encompass both sides of political party activity (the governing NDP and the opposition parties) during the coming stage. The stage of party politics is awaiting its new faces, but they are still awaiting a judicial sanction to begin their activities officially.

Egypt, Philippines Sign Trade Agreement

92AF0142B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
1 Nov 91 p 11

[Article: "Equivalent Deal for \$40 Million Between Egypt and Philippines"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—An exchange deal valued at nearly \$40 million was concluded last week in Cairo between Egypt and the Philippines at the end of talks held by a Philippines trade delegation visiting Egypt under the chairmanship of Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Garrucho.

The two-day talks discussed the possibility of developing and enhancing the two countries' economic and trade relations in the coming phase, especially since the trade volume between Egypt and the Philippines did not exceed \$7 million last year.

Egyptian Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa has stated that it was also agreed to give joint Egyptian-Filipino investments a strong boost, and that it is possible that joint projects with Egyptian-Filipino capital will be set up by businessmen from the two countries. The Filipino delegation familiarized itself with the investment opportunities available in Egypt and with the most important areas, to which the Egyptian Government devotes special attention and in which it encourages investment, such as land reclamation, home construction, tourist projects, and assembly industries.

Egyptian Officials Discuss Trade With Soviets

92AF0143A Cairo AL-AHRAM-AL-DUWALI in Arabic
13 Nov 91 p 4

[Article by 'Izzat 'Ali]

[Text] For more than two years, the Soviet Union has been the most attractive market for Egyptian exporters, who compete to export their goods there. More precisely, the nature of the Soviet market is expanding. It is absorbing large quantities of goods and is capable of absorbing products made by new Egyptian industries, especially industries established in the seventies and eighties. However, following the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union, exportation to this market clearly requires all agencies to take a deliberate stance.

The problem is not confined to the exports' profitability or lack of profitability. It also concerns on the need for an export strategy. A notable phenomenon is the change that has occurred in the list of Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union. This list used to be limited to agricultural goods, such as onions, garlic, and citrus fruit. All other Egyptian goods that went to the Soviet Union were in-kind payment to settle Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union. However, in the early eighties, Egyptian exports to the Soviet Union diversified to include products ranging from cotton to toothpaste. At the same time, the

list of Egypt's imports from the Soviet Union did not change, and these imports became fewer in type and lesser in quantity.

Another phenomenon regarding Egyptian exports to the Soviet market is that reliance by Egyptian exporters on state guarantees has become the norm. Regardless of what we have said about the responsibility of exporters for mistakenly relying on a single, primary market to absorb their goods, when a matter such as this is linked to the industrial structure of Egypt's private and public sectors, we should study its effect on the domestic situation and the industrial structure established in the seventies and eighties. Furthermore, because this matter pertains to a market such as the Soviet market, which the Europeans are most eager to enter, we must take a more comprehensive view. True, we do not have the capabilities to finance exports on credit. However, this should not preclude us from engaging in mutually desired trade with the Soviet Union.

Accordingly, there is a need to convene a meeting at the level of a ministerial working committee to work out a strategy for trade with the Soviet Union. Participants in this meeting should include agencies of the Central Bank of Egypt, the industrial sector, and the foreign trade sector. The determination of matters pertaining to 2 or 3 billion Egyptian pounds worth of business with a single market should generally not be neglected. Rather, these matters should be clarified, especially inasmuch as the phenomenon is major, affecting not only Egyptian-Soviet trade relations, because it is well-known that Egypt's trade with the Soviet Union has been considered more profitable than Egyptian trade with any other market.

For its part, the economic page [of AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI] shall attempt to contribute something on this by presenting the subject from different angles through interviews with a number of exporters and officials in various sectors. We will begin with Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id and Dr. Sultan Abu-'Ali, both former economy ministers, who will help familiarize us with the circumstances that governed economic relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, or between the Egyptian and Soviet markets, during the eighties.

Soviet-Egyptian Commercial Relations

"In speaking about Egyptian-Soviet economic relations," states Dr. Mustafa al-Sa'id, "we must distinguish between trade relations and relations linked to military agreements. Since the reduction of Egyptian reliance on Soviet arms in the seventies, the two countries have been involved in an ongoing dispute over the repayment of Egypt's military debts to the Soviet Union. This dispute has frequently affected the natural course of trade relations between the two countries, which were, and still are, governed by a trade and payment agreement between them.

"The Soviet Union has always acted to maintain a deficit in its trade balance with Egypt in favor of Egypt. Thus,

under trade and payment protocols, the Soviet Union has imported more from Egypt than it has exported to it. The difference is not actually paid to Egypt but recorded in accounts with the two countries' central banks, in the Soviet hope that a debit balance will accumulate to in effect cover Egypt's military debts owed to the Soviet Union.

"This practice has tended to restrict the volume of trade between the two countries, inasmuch as Egypt has wished not to increase the deficit and has thus avoided increasing its exports to the Soviet Union.

"One of the measures taken by the government was to conclude an agreement with the Soviet Union on a fixed annual deficit not to exceed 20 million accounting pounds sterling."

Problem of Indebtedness

Dr. Sultan Abu-'Ali, a former economy minister, believes that the problem of indebtedness should not impede the export of Egyptian goods to the Soviet market. The Soviet market is the biggest market in the world, on which all countries have set their sights. "We must expect problems while Egypt and the Soviet Union undergo the transition to free market policies. These problems will eventually be surmounted. We must also expect fundamental changes in economic relations between the two countries. After these changes, and after the Soviet ruble and the Egyptian pound become negotiable internationally, doing business with the Soviet Union will become like doing business with any market with which trade is effected through the international market.

"These changes in Egypt and the Soviet Union do not mean an end to bilateral trade at present. Rather, they mean that this trade must be restructured to the mutual benefit of the two countries. In other words, Egyptian-Soviet trade is moving toward being based on free transactions in the international market. This tendency will be significant, insofar as we will not be able to rely on the continued Soviet Union importation of Egyptian products regardless of price or quality. The same is true for us.

"This trade will be carried out according to international practices, which are based on quality and competition. The current economic restructuring in the Soviet Union and Egypt can develop so as to lead to an increase in the trade volume."

The Protocol Formula

Ayhab Abazah, the chairman of the board of the public Engineering Operations Company, believes that the protocol formula has become irrelevant, because prior agreements with the Soviet Union cannot be implemented following the independence of the Soviet republics. However, regarding the future, there are a number of alternatives for doing business. "There is the possibility of undertaking joint projects and operations to

assemble some types of equipment. Then, there is doing business based on repayment credits [*i'timadat mutaqa-balah*]. This is in addition to the current formula of in-kind deals. Under the in-kind formula, exchanges are valued in free currency, but no free currency is transferred. Instead, one commodity is exchanged for another. In order to obtain Russian imports on the best terms, and a commitment to shipping programs and rapid implementation, each contract for the import of goods from a Russian company or factory should be accompanied by an offer of Egyptian consumer and other export goods to that company or factory. These companies and factories need these goods to provide for the needs of their workers and their families. [They can obtain these goods] by this means in deference to the aspirations of their workers, who have long suffered deprivation. These companies or factories will thus be compelled to do business in a spirit of friendship based on a desire to continue doing business."

According to Ayhab Abazah, direct transactions between Egyptian companies and Russian companies might be the most suitable long-term alternative to any commercial protocol between the two governments.

Imported Soviet Goods

Regarding Soviet exports to the Egyptian market, he states that we depend on the Soviet market to provide a large amount of our bituminous coal, wood, different types of paper, frozen fish, equipment, and machinery. All of these commodities are in demand in the Egyptian market and have features that suit them to the Egyptian agricultural and industrial pattern of consumption.

Sidqi Comments on Economic Reforms

92AF0133A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
8 Nov 91 p 10

[Article by Usamah [Saraya]]

[Text] The debate over Egypt's economic future never ceases. It is every citizen's problem, as well as of Egypt as a whole. Recently the Association of Graduates of the National Institute of Management held, as part of its series of successful annual conferences, an in-depth seminar entitled "Axis of Change in the Egyptian Society." The seminar comprised a complete workshop that involved executive officials led by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, all the ministers concerned with economic reform policy in Egypt, and thinkers and management leaders, in order to monitor changes in Egypt and to see how to safeguard its economic future. In view of the importance of this conference and its vitality, it was necessary that we should pursue the axis, or the outcome of the economic reform policy that has actually been implemented, as the prime minister reports. We will then move to the political, economic, and social thinking that drives change internally and externally in order to plot the changes and put our feet on the right path with perception and thorough insight.

The administration officials put many questions to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi regarding the future of economic reform and its problems. The answers to these were clear.

[Dr. Sidqi said that] "Credit ceilings have their logical reasons, which is to confront the danger of inflation that has spread, and we will review such reasons.

- "Economic reform involves many sectors and will not stop. We must tackle the budget deficit and increase resources.
- All investment laws will be unified.
- The change to standardized tax will take place in fiscal year 1992-93.
- We will deal with unemployment through increasing private investments.
- There is an Egyptian company for insurance against export risks, and it will begin paying compensation to those who suffered losses in the Gulf war through the exchange deal with Iraq.
- The objective of credit ceilings is to deal with inflation; we will abolish them when conditions improve."

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi then explained his views on the questions raised. He said: "With regard to the credit ceilings, I would like to put them in their real context. It is a temporary measure subject to reconsideration when conditions improve. It is one of the economic reform measures in that, first, a maximum has been fixed for credit granted by the banking sector as a whole; second, credit granted by one bank to another; and third, credit granted to each customer. The intent is to deal with the greatest danger the national economy is facing, namely inflation, which in past years increased until it threatened the national economy."

The prime minister said: "I am quite aware that there are people who suffer because of credit ceilings, but I would like to ask them to place themselves within the national economic framework as a whole. Currency stability and dealing with inflation are basic factors for economic reform. Inflation has reached unacceptable levels, ranging between 20 and 25 percent. This year we were able to reduce inflation to 17 to 18 percent. Still, this is an unacceptable level. We should reduce inflation to about 5 percent, which is an acceptable level in the world. If inflation rises to more than 10 percent in a developed country, it would cause the downfall of the regime and not just the government. When conditions improve, we will provide more flexibility for credit ceilings."

The prime minister stated that the reform policy covers several sectors, including dealing with the budget deficit and controlling deficit in the balance of payments. "Balancing the budget has direct effect on inflation. In order to achieve this, we lessen the government's borrowing from the banking sector. Consequently, we resorted to increasing tax revenues through the sales tax. We hope this will be successful so that it will become a

source of income, rather than resorting to inflationary financing resources such as treasury bonds."

Business Sector Law

Dr. Sidqi explained that the new business sector law, No. 203, has a major objective, which is to eliminate any confusion between the public sector and the private sector. "The name is self-explanatory. What we have in mind is a deeper development to remove any differences between the public sector and private sector. Economic activity should be based on sound economic principles and should function within a framework of freedom in making investment decisions. On the other hand, we have given every company the freedom to lay down its regulations, set executives' salaries, and deal with appointments and promotions. Of course, the companies will differ from one another, each depending on the nature of its business and resources. For the first time, these companies will not be restricted, nor will members of boards of directors be, even after the age of retirement. These companies can choose their executives over 60 years of age.

"Therefore, these companies are not restricted and are not bound by the law that provides for a maximum [annual salary] of 20,000 pounds for executives, as it is in the case of government executives. Even this law is now under consideration, and will again be discussed in the cabinet in order to change it in a manner compatible with the new situation."

Unifying Investment Laws in Egypt

The prime minister said: "We are tending toward unifying all the investment laws in Egypt, whether Law 59 concerning shareholding companies, or the investment law so, that after two years transactions will be standardized. The unification has actually begun, gradually. It has now become clear that some companies have been moved from being subject to the investment law to being under the companies law. The law provides that the investment sector may not be subjected to encumbrances to which the public and private sectors are not subjected. With regard to prices of energy borne by the investment sector, a change has been effected in the price of energy borne by the shareholding companies under Law 159. This change has not been applied to investment companies (Law 230)."

Where Is Unified Tax?

Replying to a question regarding unified taxes, the prime minister said: "This demand has been recurring. There has been confusion among the public, for the unified tax is not the sole tax. It must be understood that the single-tax system is not applied in the world. The most recent countries to abandon it were the oil countries. But it must be made clear that the unified tax is an income tax. In the case of a unified tax, an individual pays only a unified, all-inclusive tax. This is the difference between this tax and the itemized income tax, under which an individual is subject to several kinds of taxes. We believe

that the itemized tax is easier and simpler than the unified tax. For this reason, it has been adopted by all the countries. Studies have shown that, in view of the complexity of the unified tax system, a modern, contemporary, and efficient tax department is needed. Therefore, we are waiting for the Tax Department to be modernized and for tax awareness to be heightened, bearing in mind that we realize that a unified tax system is the fairest of all systems."

The prime minister announced that the standardized tax system is expected to come into effect during fiscal year 1992-1993. He said, "We have carried out a comprehensive modernization of the tax system and have been training the staff so that we will not suffer any shortfall in taxes." With regard to liberating the Egyptian economy, the prime minister said, "We will not hesitate to carry through the policies of economic liberation. The government will not intervene, except in the strictest sense. The only way to protect local industry is to develop it and to boost its ability to compete in the open market while enjoying the advantage of a customs tariff."

Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said there are solutions for the unemployment problem in several directions, "most important of which is to broaden the production base of the private sector or the business sector in order to create jobs for everybody, both men and women. The proposal that women are to be pensioned off is not the solution. The problem of the unemployed cannot be solved at the expense of other categories of people becoming unemployed."

Where Is Egyptian Export Risk Insurance?; Exporters' Rights Vis-a-vis Poor Iraq

The prime minister was asked about the problem of the Egyptian companies that exported to Iraq within the limits. [sentence as published] The prime minister said, "But [we do not] resort to restrictions and measures, because every restriction creates more restrictions after it, since freedom opens the way to opportunities and to the survival of the fittest, because competition is the essence of freedom. Freedom would lead to the liberation of foreign trade. We will not again resort to banning imports or to fixing quotas within the framework of the exchange deal. The Egyptian companies did not receive their dues, which amount to \$66 million, of which \$25 million belong to the private sector and \$41 million to the public sector. The private companies will suffer losses and will resort to overdrawing their accounts and to borrowing from banks with interest as a result of this acute crisis."

The prime minister said that this is a real problem and the government is looking into it. "The minister of economy has studied the matter and the government will not let the companies lose their dues. They will obtain their dues in full, but we are waiting for the compensation that is going to be paid to the countries that have suffered from the Gulf war and the Iraqi aggression."

The prime minister added, "But studying this problem should lead us to the conclusion that establishing an

Egyptian company to guarantee exports is important for dealing with this problem and other problems. We are on the way to establishing such a company and we will put the matter to the People's Assembly at its next session."

Minister Announces Tourism Income Statistics

92AF0132A Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 1

[Article: "\$3 Billion Egypt's Tourism Revenue This Year"]

[Text] Mr. Fu'ad Sultan, the minister of tourism, stated that Egypt will derive \$3 billion in revenue from 3 million tourists this year, thus regaining its tourism position in the wake of the Gulf crisis. He also announced a decision to grant tourists immediate visas at airports and ports and to allow them to bring in and take out foreign currency without restrictions.

At yesterday's opening of the African Tourism Conference, which was attended by representatives of 35 African countries and 85 American companies specialized in attracting tourists from the United States to Africa, the minister said that Egypt has acquired a prominent position as a result of its important and vital role during the crisis. This has greatly affected the flow of tourists to Egypt.

He added there are 600,000 American tourists to the African countries a year. It has been decided to incorporate Egypt into this tourism by having "safari tours" to central Africa include a visit to Egypt on the same plane ticket. American tourists will have to pay no additional charges, except the costs of accommodation in Egypt. This will lead to an increase in their numbers coming to Egypt.

The minister stated at the conference that Egypt has diversified its tourism programs and has linked cultural and archeological tourism to tourism for rest and recreation. Egypt has built a series of tourist villages on the Red Sea and in southern Sinai, increasing the number of world-class diving centers. A hospital for "deep-sea medicine" is now being built to handle emergencies.

Official Provides Tax Revenue Figures

92AF0133B Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 6 Nov 91 p 6

[Report by Fu'ad Fawwaz]

[Text] An official source in the Tax Department said tax revenue during the first quarter of 1991-1992 totaled 2 billion Egyptian pounds, representing an increase of 600 million pounds over the same period last year. The source said the revenue expected to be collected this year will reach 10 billion pounds, while adhering to the policy of treating taxpayers kindly and avoiding overburdening them.

The source said the policy of internal committees that meet in tax commissions in order to resolve problems between the taxpayers and the Tax Department has proved to be successful. It suffices to say that the number of cases dealt with by the internal committees has totalled 700,000. The source said that the method of settling disputes between the taxpayer and the Tax Department, which Finance Minister Dr. Mahmud al-Razzaz is calling for, has led to reducing the number of tax cases in the courts this year by 27 percent. Also, dispute cases between the taxpayers and the tax commissions in the appeal committees have ended. The number of cases totalled 109,000, an un-targetted increase of 48 percent.

The source also said that 21 ministry undersecretaries and 71 general directors have been promoted. He affirmed that a major tax survey campaign will begin within the next few weeks. Survey maps of neighborhoods are being used for this purpose.

Minister Notes Increase in Oil, Gas Production

92AF0132B Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 1

[Article: "Six Percent Increase in Oil, Gas Production in Three Months"]

[Text] Oil and natural gas production increased by six percent during the three months ending in September, compared with production for the same period last year. The increase stems from comprehensive development operations for the fields and the beginning of production at two new fields in the eastern and western desert.

This was stated by Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. He added that production of natural gas, condensates, and butane had reached about two million tons, an increase of 15 percent, due to the opening of the Badr al-Din 3/Abu-Sinan project, one of the largest gas projects in the western desert region. The two fields currently produce about 190 million cubic feet of gas per day. This will increase to 265 million cubic feet per day next year.

He indicated that domestic consumption of petroleum products and gas during the three months was about 6.5 million tons, with a value of about 1.574 billion Egyptian pounds.

The minister told AL-AHRAM's correspondent 'Adil Ibrahim that the Geological Survey Agency had implemented projects to discover minerals and groundwater in the western and eastern deserts and Sinai. It had contracted with industrial firms and the governorates to dig new groundwater wells on the Asyut/al-Kharjah road and prospect for raw materials for the aluminum factories. The Sinai Coal Company has a plan to reopen the al-Magharah coal mine, with a capacity of 125,000 tons a year.

Cotton Export Earnings Dropped Last Year

92AF0132C Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 22 Oct 91 p 10

[Article: "Drop in Egypt's Cotton Export Revenues"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ Bureau—Egypt's cotton export revenues decreased by about 60 million Egyptian pounds during the last fiscal year. The value of the decrease was about \$86 million, inasmuch as cotton exports are included in the revenues of the Egyptian Central Bank's foreign currency group.

The figures showed that cotton export revenues during the last fiscal year were 188.6 million pounds (\$250 million), compared to revenues of 249.5 million pounds (\$357 million) in the previous fiscal year.

The figures showed that the decrease in Egypt's cotton export revenues stemmed from a clear decrease in the quantity of cotton exported, because export prices increased from 729.5 pounds a bale to 962.2 pounds a bale.

Aluminum Plant Contract Signed With France

92AF0132D Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
5 Nov 91 p 5

[Report by Ahmad al-'Attar: "Signing of Contract To Implement Huge Aluminum-Producing Project"]

[Text] The minister of industry, Eng. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, yesterday witnessed the signing of a contract to build an aluminum rolling project. Investment costs for the project are about 900 million Egyptian pounds, and its production capacity will be 60,000 tons per year of aluminum ingots. France will contribute technical expertise to build the project. Signing the contract for the Egyptian side were Mr. 'Adil al-[Danaf], president of the Metallurgical Industries Holding Company, and Engineer Sulayman Rida, president of Egypt Aluminum Company.

Eng. Sulayman Rida stated that the value of the project's production would be 525 million pounds. The project will supply 10,000 tons of production for domestic consumption and 50,000 tons for export. It will be built at the Naj' Hammadi aluminum complex to take advantage of existing infrastructure and utilities in building the new project, which will provide 700 new jobs. The new project is to begin production in three years and will reach maximum capacity after another three years.

He added: "Studies have shown the project's economic feasibility. It will lead to the production of new varieties of aluminum ingots produced for the first time in Egypt. These will be used in many modern industries: mechanical industries such as automobile and boat manufacturing, appliance manufacturing, and civil installations. While the project will help increase industrial activity in Egypt, most of its production will be exported, which will realize a large return in foreign currency. We are currently exploring the

matter of repaying part of the project's loans by exporting part of the project's production."

He explained that the contract provides that two specialized French companies will help implement the project: the first to import equipment, the second to provide technical expertise. Part of the project's equipment—worth about 118 million pounds—will be manufactured locally. The civil installations will be worth about 40 million pounds. Egypt Aluminum Company, with which the new project is affiliated, will finance part of the project from its own resources. The National Investment Bank and the Islamic Bank of Jiddah are participating in the funding. There are also loans on favorable terms from Saudi Arabia and France.

Decrease in Cotton Production Analyzed

92AF0132E Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-DUWALI in Arabic
31 Oct 91 p 6

[Article by Ra'fat Sulayman: "Will Egyptian Cotton Return to Throne of Egyptian Agriculture?"]

[Text] Ever since Muhammad 'Ali introduced cotton growing to Egypt at the beginning of the 19th century, this strategic crop has remained king on the throne of Egyptian agriculture and a symbol of that agriculture. Yet the past few years have seen a decline in cotton production and a drop in the production figure to its lowest levels.

Thus the farmer no longer wants to plant cotton. The reasons are many and varied.

Those interested in Egyptian agriculture trace the decline in Egypt's domestic cotton production to a group of factors affecting the productivity of the unit of measurement, the feddan [1.038 acres], while another group of factors has worked to reduce the area devoted to growing cotton. The figures illustrate this. For the last 10 years, since 1981-1982, production has been declining, the crop area has been shrinking, and cotton's problems have become more complex. At the beginning of the eighties, in 1980-1981, which can be considered cotton's year of abundance, production reached 10.9 million qantars [1 qantar=44.93 kg] on a land area of 1.9 million feddans. Thereafter the production rate began to decline. Last year it reached 5.6 million qantars on a land area of 1.006 million feddans. In 1991-1992, 850,000 feddans were planted in cotton, the lowest figure recorded in recent years.

A discussion of the cotton problem confronts us with a number of questions. Will this season be the last of the lean years for Egyptian cotton? How can one emerge from the cycle of problems that the main crop of Egyptian agriculture is experiencing?

Agronomists trace the various reasons for the drop in domestic production to a number of factors. Dr. Salah al-Jundi, professor of economics in the Faculty of Agriculture of al-Mansurah University, says that widespread,

haphazard use of insecticides has created an environmental imbalance and has killed off the natural enemies of pests.

As has been noted, the appearance of the boll weevil just before harvest leads to destruction of the crop and declining productivity of the feddan. Furthermore, late planting times cause cotton plants to miss the appropriate environmental season for growth and pest resistance.

Some varieties, such as al-Jizah-69, are inappropriate and low in yield. It was recently replaced, and its planting halted as of last season.

Agricultural extension agencies have been negligent in reaching farmers in the field and instructing them how to plant, combat pests, irrigate properly, and perform each agricultural operation at the right time—this in spite of our having the expertise and talent. We have approximately 200,000 agricultural engineers who can be used for agricultural extension operations. A director of agriculture in al-Sharqiyah Governorate says that the role of the agricultural extension agent, who used to deal directly with the farmer and be in contact with him, no longer exists as it once did. The reason, in his view, is that research experts in the Agriculture Ministry now intervene in the work of agricultural extension. Applications of research now take place in the field without considering the failure or success of the research experts' applications. He says that their role should be limited to research in laboratories and model fields. Widespread application should be under the auspices of agricultural extension. A research expert at the Agricultural Research Center raises an important question. He says that applications of the creation of new varieties of cotton seeds were taking place in the middle of the fields; there were some bad seeds, and this in turn spoiled the degree of superiority of the good seeds.

Dr. Muhammad Abu-Mandur says that varieties used in recent years have gotten mixed up and that some bad varieties have crept in as a result of foreign dependence with the importation of short-staple cottons to satisfy the domestic market. Furthermore, the varieties of cotton seeds used in past years were old; not updating them caused their low yield.

Also, the National Academy of Research in Agriculture has been neglected and no longer has a role, even though it once was considered one of the best schools of agricultural research.

One-Sided Relation

Furthermore, the farmer's relation to agricultural extension and the government has become a one-way relationship based on orders, not on participation and education. The farmer implements the orders of those in

charge of agriculture and delivers the crop compulsorily. This, in turn, wastes the expertise that the farmer has acquired over many years.

Dr. Samir Mustafa, agricultural adviser at the National Planning Institute, says that the drop in cotton production and crop area can be traced to the problem of the need for food. Prices for food crops have risen, so farmers prefer them to cotton. One can sympathize with the farmer; he is looking for the best crop mix to give him the highest return. The net return from a feddan of cotton has dropped below 1,000 Egyptian pounds; some competing crops yield a return between 1,800 and 2,500 pounds. In Dr. Samir's view, a defect in the agricultural system causes this situation. While the farmer is forced to deliver a qantar of cotton at 300 pounds, the government sells it at 800 pounds, at world prices. At the same time, the farmer obtains his agricultural inputs of fertilizer, seed, insecticides, and mechanical service at high prices, now that these inputs have been freed and left to the market.

A number of factors have led to an accumulation of cotton diseases year after year. The system of spraying from airplanes does not concentrate on the fields most affected and most damaged by pests, because the system of aerial spraying is not suitable for them. A system of selective spraying suitable to the infestation should be used instead. "I think those in charge of agriculture have begun to change the spraying method." On this question, one farmer says that the cotton spraying method is not dependent on the kind of infestation affecting the cotton: "If, for example, my field is infested with a certain kind of insect, either aphids or worms, and I go to the agricultural office, the application could be rejected, despite the field's infestation." An agricultural engineer says that the reason for this is that the research experts have issued orders that spraying for any kind of insect shall take place only when an acute state of infestation is reached, so that the spraying will be economical. This means that the infestation spreads so as to threaten the crop in some areas!

The same agricultural extension agent says that the decrease in production per feddan is partly the farmer's fault. First, he plants too late in some areas and loads cotton with other crops whose diseases attack cotton. Sometimes he does not listen to the guidance of agricultural experts. For example, in the last stage of the plant's growth, when the cotton is to be irrigated for the last time, farmers deliberately let the cotton go dry as long as possible and then irrigate it with large amounts of water. Farmers argue that this stops the vegetative growth of the cotton bush and that the bolls open after this. What happens, however, is the opposite. It causes the root hairs to break down and an imbalance to occur between vegetative and root growth. Most of the green leaves fall and the bush is ruined. This, in turn, seriously affects the crop.

Decline of Egyptian Cotton

Perhaps the most important effect of the drop in Egyptian cotton production has been the dethronement of cotton as one of the most important crops in Egyptian agriculture, and its consequent loss of status at the international level. The situation has become critical in international markets as a result of the decreasing quantities earmarked for export. Dr. Samir Mustafa says that the countries of Western Europe, Japan, and the socialist countries have turned from importing Egyptian cotton. One can summarize the reasons as decreasing quantities ready for export and delay in announcing the opening of dealing in Egyptian cotton until the end of November, when it ought to begin on 1 October. At the same time, prices for Egyptian cotton have become exorbitant.

For these three reasons, Egyptian cotton has lost its relative advantage in international markets. The government should now completely free the growing of cotton, taking into account food needs. It should increase the price of cotton to the level of world prices to give incentive and encourage farmers to turn to planting this important export crop. Prices should be set on the basis of textile qualities, test results, demand in world markets, and the prices of cotton varieties competing with Egyptian cotton on the world market.

Dr. Salah al-Jundi sees a need to open dealings with foreign markets early. Delay has caused foreign weavers to turn to competing cottons. The outstanding textile qualities of Egyptian cotton must be maintained by producing new, improved strains. Dr. Muhammad Abu-Mandur shares these views. He stresses the need to arrange adequate funding for research in deriving new strains. There should be a role for the 200,000 agricultural engineers and 5,000 doctors of agriculture in the field of agricultural research.

The coming period also requires that internal marketing be allowed to develop, so as to make the farmer want to grow cotton.

Officials Call For Arab Nuclear Progress, Secrecy

92AE0072B Amman. SHIHAN in Arabic 26 Oct 91 p 12

[Article: "Arab Nuclear Capability, and the Lies of Blockade and Costs!"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has announced the stoppage of the peaceful nuclear program in Egypt. As an immediate consequence of this, a clamor arose warning against the danger of this move. These statements are similar to Western statements, which are a mix of anticipation and warning against Arabs possessing the nuclear weapon, because of the outbreak of war against Iraq, the attempt to search and destroy its nuclear capabilities, and impose a Western blockade through the UN against Iraq and other developing countries "with the exception of Israel," so that none of these nations will have, or try to have, this weapon. The new item is that the West does not want an Arab nuclear capability.

not just in the military, strategic, and political sense, but also in the peaceful developmental and economic sense. Through control over international lending and financial agencies, Western conditions have been slipped in to thwart and stagnate any Arab nuclear project, as well as to blockade it.

Experts, technicians, and military specialists confirm that the Western blockade could be breached, and they delineate the conditions for that. We also have the technical and technological components and raw materials required to manufacture the Arab capability. We do not lack the financing, so much as we lack the political will and the clarity of strategic vision.

Everyone emphasizes that Arab political reality is not capable—now—of establishing an Arab nuclear weapon as a strategic deterrent in the conflict with the Zionist entity. This does not deny the need, or rather, the duty to construct peaceful nuclear power plants whose role would be for development and to share in the atomic industry pursuant to development in the future.

In regard to this issue, what do experts in that field say?

Crisis of Decision

Present circumstances are not propitious to achieve an Arab nuclear weapon. There are many obstacles in the path of this goal. This statement was made to me by military and strategic expert Staff Major General Tal'at Musallam, who went on to say: "I think that it would not be impossible to produce and manufacture this weapon, if we were convinced of the need for it, through debate and through a conviction of the necessity of creating a military balance with Israel. Regarding the elements that this industry would require, you will find that Egypt and Iraq have made great strides on the scientific level, to the extent that Iraq was very close to, or on the verge of, achieving this goal. Therefore, I believe that the most important thing that must be done is to preserve the expertise and knowledge that Arab intellect has achieved in nuclear technology, and to complete the installations and materials. All of this will contribute to producing the Arab nuclear weapon. Unfortunately, as we know, Iraq is under nuclear supervision. Instead of Arab silence contributing to its destruction, Arab agencies must obtain Iraq's expertise and industries. We must now think about constructing new nuclear facilities, as a pledge of political decision and will, which must strive to build nuclear power plants and reactors."

Maj. Gen. Musallam added: "The cadre that undertakes this construction must be Arab. It is possible to ask foreign experts for assistance, but caution is necessary, because the international environment is not propitious."

With regard to importing the components of a nuclear weapon, Maj. Gen. Musallam feels that it is preferable to deal with individuals rather than nations, despite the nations' advantages, because political circumstances contribute to their inconsistent positions. "Moreover, the nuclear material required for the weapon is one of

the products of the reaction required for energy and, consequently, it would be possible to obtain it easily from individuals in its peaceful form. The nuclear material can be found on the international market, but the circle where one can obtain it is restricted, which makes it a secretive, complex process that cannot attract attention, because it could be a violation of the international embargo imposed on that material. Accordingly, this should not be left to one state, but rather, should be dealt with as a regional responsibility to produce, manufacture, and protect this goal, so that our nuclear project does not become a target for a foreign attack."

Joint Responsibility

Concerning Arab technological resources that might be available, Dr. Hasan Nafi'ah, professor of political science in the College of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, stated: "Resources are available, but the question is, should the burden of manufacturing an Arab nuclear bomb be put on one country? I think that the responsibility should be a joint one, politically and strategically, among the Arab nations. Nevertheless, this would be no easy matter, inasmuch as the Arab states differ among themselves on how to resolve the Palestinian issue, 'by a peaceful settlement, or by a strategy of steadfastness, or by the deterrent strategy.' The question raised is how to crystallize an Arab regional agreement on manufacturing the nuclear bomb. This would—realistically—be difficult to achieve in the midst of an Arab climate charged with disputes and tension. After what happened to Iraq, the Arab states will think twice before manufacturing and producing nuclear weapons. It would be erroneous to believe that we lack resources or technical expertise. The weapon is not an American monopoly alone. On the contrary, the technical expertise is available and is not a monopoly of the West. It is well-known that India has a high level of expertise in nuclear bomb manufacturing and, consequently, from the political aspect, one could find an outlet to compensate for any deficiency in technical expertise. On the other hand, it is said that international monitoring is increasing; America is pursuing harsher measures and is putting pressure on all parties, so that no nuclear cooperation takes place, especially with regard to the Arabs. I think that this supervision is illegal, inasmuch as it prevents the Arabs from producing and manufacturing nuclear weapons. The Iraqi nuclear program was developed with the assistance of French technical expertise. This cooperation continued until Israel destroyed the Iraqi reactor in 1981. Nevertheless, Iraq continued and was successful in developing its nuclear program. Even if the Gulf war had not occurred, the West most likely would have disarmed and blockaded Iraq. I don't think that there is any party in the world that has the power and structure to control this capability and this nuclear weapon. Gaps exist and are found in this international order, whose features have not yet crystallized, despite American influence."

Clarity of Vision

Staff Brigadier General Murad al-Dassuqi agrees with the previous opinion. "In order for us to build a nuclear weapon, a financing and technological base must be available, along with the technical material required to build this weapon and to manufacture the fissionable material to cause the nuclear explosion. In addition, there must be scientific cadres in the nuclear field to use these nuclear sciences. This required material can be found in the Arab states, particularly the Egyptian, Iraqi, and Syrian cadres.

"Even resources not available to the Arabs could be obtained in many ways. As for the main impediment, everyone agrees that it lies in making the decision and then being able to safeguard this decision from outside influences. It has to be kept secret so that the project is not aborted in its early stages."

Brig. Gen. Murad al-Dassuqi added that, if the Arab nations were able to achieve their nuclear industry on a specific level that would make it difficult to attack, particularly after production, "no power would be able to attack our project. At this point, I would underscore bringing together an Arab political will commensurate with clarity of vision in the long term. This is required in the near future. Every nation that has succeeded in manufacturing and producing atomic energy possessed clarity of vision, no matter what sacrifices it cost. Scientists can be obtained, even from countries like Pakistan and India. Despite the international climate's bent toward Israel and its interests, and despite the multiplicity of surveillance methods, we could avoid detection by surrounding our work with secrecy. As an example, as Arabs we could implement a long-range plan that could develop peacefully in the future."

Regarding the matter of the Arabs' possessing a nuclear weapon as a strategic deterrent vis-a-vis the Zionist entity, al-Dassuqi stated: "Talking about Arab regional security—now—has become a waste of time, in light of Israel's possession of this weapon, because it has no less than 200 nuclear bombs with which to threaten the Arabs. Duty requires that Arab regional security rely on balance in the nuclear field. With conventional weapons the Arabs face unconventional weapons. This tips the balance of the conflict in favor of the Zionist entity."

The Nuclear Weapon, Peacefully

Despite the military importance of the nuclear weapon to the Arabs, political decisions in the Arab region have avoided it, especially after the Gulf war. The greatest danger of that is the caution that has surrounded the nuclear program for peaceful purposes.

Concerning the views of technicians and specialists on the possibility of creating nuclear energy on the Arab level, to be used for peaceful and regional purposes, Dr. Husayn 'Abd-al-Muhsin, former head of the Egyptian Atomic Energy Commission [EAEC], stresses that "from the expertise and execution aspects, nuclear fuel—upon

which any nuclear program must rely—is the basis of the entire process to produce energy. This fuel is represented by uranium, which the EAEC was and still is making efforts to discover and extract.

"Since the establishment of a section for geology and atomic raw materials in the EAEC, until independent specialization and organizations in the energy field were established in 1977, we have been searching in Egypt's deserts in the hope of finding atomic raw materials. We have surveyed large areas, or rather, we have covered 30 percent of the total surface of Egypt, by means of aerial radiation surveys. This percentage was chosen because it contained the best possibilities, especially in the eastern desert areas, according to precise studies that have been conducted. Through hard work over 30 years, we succeeded in attaining technical skills, cadres, and high expertise specializing in the field of fissionable materials. We have specialists in exploration, extraction, and analysis. We succeeded in learning everything required to launch a program of atomic energy exploration and, consequently, we now have generations who have attained a high scientific level and who can continue on this course.

"As a consequence, we have concluded that uranium exists in our granite formations in the eastern desert, since these formations carry uranium of considerable importance. Accordingly, we have begun to ascertain precisely the possibility of this in the areas of Jabal Qattar, northwest of al-Ghardaqah; al-Misikat and al-['Urayyidiyah], halfway between Qina and Safaja; and finally, in the area of Umm Ara', southeast of Aswan, where the existence of quantities of uranium has been proven by sightings and verification."

Other Methods

Husayn 'Abd-al-Muhsin went on to say: "In principle, we estimate that there are 14,000 tons of uranium as an initial guess, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]'s system, which is comparable with other regions of the world. Moreover, detailed studies are now being conducted in regard to digging and mining operations, in order ultimately to define this quantity precisely. The number will not be zero, and it will not be very far from 14,000 tons. With regard to other methods, we have a project to extract uranium from phosphate; the feasibility of extracting uranium from this mineral has been proven. There is a project under study, and final approval is expected.

"This energy is now the basis for development in the world. Perhaps France's scientific progress and industrial revolution resulted from its reliance on nuclear energy for 75 percent of its total energy needs. IAEA reports also indicate that 20 percent of the world depends on atomic energy. I would like to caution the Arabs here that oil will be depleted someday—10, 20, 30 years at most, no matter how much experts differ. Reliance on nuclear energy now will help us avoid disasters and dependence on the outside world in the

future. On the contrary, the more we procrastinate in starting our nuclear program, the more the cost and difficulties increase in achieving that program in the long run. Perhaps it should not be termed difficult to achieve. We have the expertise and the human, technical, and material resources. We must also follow the example of the countries of the rest of the world, all of which are heading toward the construction of nuclear power plants."

Colonialist Plots

Dr. Munir Mujahid, director of the Studies Administration in the Nuclear Power Plant Agency, warns that the absence of nuclear power plants means capitulation to colonialist plots that have been an obstacle in the path of introducing nuclear technology into Egypt and the Arab nation since 1960. This confirms the retention of this kind of energy in the hands of imperialist nations, and makes us continue in stagnate subordination to the West. Dr. Munir Mujahid believes that there is a global tendency toward reliance on using nuclear power, both on the level of advanced and developing nations, because everyone has begun to understand the benefits of these plants in obtaining cheaper electricity in a more reliable way. There is increased confidence in nuclear reactors. Dr. Mujahid rejects expansion of thermal plants that rely on the use of coal or gas, because they are harmful to the environment, since these plants produce carbon dioxide gases and toxic, acid-rain emissions that damage the ozone layer. All of these poisons do not occur in nuclear plants. We can avoid other kinds of disasters from power stations and contribute to our advancement without wasteful reliance on the West. It should be emphasized that we have successful examples in dealing with advanced technology; we have the capability to protect our nuclear reactors in the future, with our proficiency and skill in maintaining the security and performance of these plants.

Programs Under Implementation

Dr. Hafiz Hajji, deputy chief of the Egyptian Military Atomic Energy Commission stated: "Since 1984, we have conducted detailed studies of the local possibilities for manufacturing nuclear power plants to generate electricity. Our interest is in medium-capability nuclear reactors, and we have the ability to manufacture its small components locally. These reactors do not require large investments. As for the nuclear fuel required by the reactors, it is the natural form of uranium and requires no complex technology. It can be extracted, refined, and manufactured directly. In this regard, an agreement has been reached with Canada to manufacture nuclear reactor components in Egypt. It has become clear that Egypt can manufacture the reactor and will not fall under the influence of world monopolies. We are now waiting for the political decision. The program is in the implementation stage, despite erroneous information exaggerating the costs. Let me stress here that the cost of the nuclear reactor is only \$1.3 billion, of which Egypt will contribute \$850 million." Dr. Hafiz Hajji added that any

country that shifts to nuclear technology undergoes a cultural change in all fields. "Moreover, Egypt embarked on the High Dam battle, and it spawned huge companies and projects. Egypt should plunge into the battle of nuclear energy, so that it will possess high technology and be a specific source of assistance to the Arab nations in attaining this technology. I call on the Gulf states, in particular, to aid Egypt materially so that it can support Arab roles vis-a-vis this goal."

Dr. Hajji pointed out that there is no danger from the use of nuclear plants. Safety precautions currently being taken put them in the forefront of energy options in terms of safety and environmental protection. The proof of that is the fact that no nuclear accidents have occurred in developing countries that have built nuclear reactors, such as India, Pakistan, and Taiwan. Dr. Hajji rejects the West's statement that the Third World is incapable of utilizing this type of energy. His rejection is proven correct by the fact that there are 200 Egyptian workers operating and working in nuclear reactors in Canada. Egypt is the best place for them!

JORDAN

Hebrew TV Program To Target Israelis

92AE0113A

[Editorial Report] An article in the 1 Dec issue of the London-based, Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports that, according to Palestinian sources, Jordan is preparing a Hebrew-language television program aimed at "the occupied territories" in cooperation with the PLO. The program is aimed at "convincing the Israelis that peace is in the interest of all of the peoples of the region, and that the path that the current Israeli Government is going down will never lead to anything but war and destruction...." It says that the program will be overseen by "a senior Jordanian official with extensive communications experience," and that descendants of Palestinians from the occupied territories will write for it. The program will include news broadcasts, political analysis, interviews, entertainment, and historical themes.

Paper Criticizes 'Muhammad's Army' Trial

92AE0072A Amman AL-RIBAT in Arabic 22 Oct 91 p 2

[Article: "In State Security Court"]

[Text] The case that has been dubbed "Muhammad's Army" is one of the most important local issues and is on everybody's lips in Jordan, because it directly touches public life in Jordan.

The great mass of people who flock to the military court building to get into the courtroom and attend public sessions, attest to that importance.

Accordingly, AL-RIBAT was interested in following up this important matter through field interviews with

attorneys for the defense, and we met with Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib, an attorney representing the defense committee that withdrew from the case in the third session; Jawad Yunis, a lawyer who withdrew from the case in the fourth session; and, finally, Lawyer Ismi Khadr, who is still on the case. In addition, we talked with Counselor Husayn Majli, from whom we obtained his rebuttal, presented to the court on 17 October 1991.

Lawyer Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib formed a defense committee of 15 attorneys, including Fu'ad Abu-Zaynah, Muhammad Hantush, 'Adnan al-Rashadan, Jawad al-Shuwa, Ziyad Khalifah, 'Abd-al-Hakim Hammad, and others, who were charged with defending the 13 accused. Professor Zuhayr Abu-al-Raghib stated:

"In the first session, in a handwritten memorandum, we raised certain legal matters concerning the unconstitutionality and illegality of this court's formation. It was a question of illegal formation. The court threw out this request. We also requested that the accused be examined by the medical examiner. Moreover, neither the defense panel nor the defendants had thus far been apprised of the court's information. This was contrary to the stipulation of Article 2.7 of the Rules of Courts of First Instance. This article stipulates that court information, the bill of indictment, and the list of witnesses' names must be delivered to the defendants at least one week prior to trial date.

"The court alleged that we did see the information, but this did not happen. All that we received was the case dossier, but we did not find the court information therein.

"As a result of these glaring legal defects, and as a result of violations of the defense's right to proceed with the defense, I proceeded, in my capacity as representative of the defense committee composed of 15 lawyers, in recording oral proceedings in the third session on 14 October, during which I declared several matters and facts, including:

- The defendants were not seen by the medical examiner, despite the fact that we submitted a memorandum to this effect 13 days before the session date.
- As of this date, and for the first time in Jordanian history, we have a case in which court information has not been given either to the defendants or the defense.
- For the first time in the history of Jordan and its military courts, we find that the public prosecutor is submitting depositions in the form cited in this case, with no specification of charges for any of them, even though the depositions were submitted by the public prosecutor. I cited an affidavit dated 18 August 1991 made to the investigator, and I supported what was cited therein. I consider it an affidavit before the public prosecutor, and I do not wish to add anything to it.
- One of the glaring violations of the Rules of Courts of First Instance was that the head of the General

Intelligence's Board of Investigations in this case acted as recording clerk for the public prosecutor!"

Regarding relationships among members of this organization, lawyer Abu-al-Raghib stated: "In terms of my meetings with the defendants and my peripheral conversations with them, it was clear to me that there was no organizational connection among them. On the contrary, they do not know each other! All that it amounts to is that during the Gulf crisis, and the climate that prevailed at that time, all the people were prepared to defend this nation. The accused were a part of these people, faithful to their religion, nation, and *ummah* [Islamic community].

"In the face of these glaring violations of the Rules of Courts of First Instance, I announced withdrawal of the 15-lawyer defense committee from this case."

As a result of the tension dominating the climate of the sessions, from the first session to the fourth on 17 October, Attorney Jawad Yunis also announced his withdrawal from the case. With regard to the reasons for his withdrawal, he said:

"The tension that dominated the sessions clearly came from the trial board from the beginning. After much difficulty, I was allowed to visit the accused in military prison for the sole purpose of obtaining his signature on the power of attorney. I was not permitted to speak with him under the supervision of the prison director and guards. When we asked for the information, the public prosecutor said: 'We will photocopy the dossier from A to Z, and we will provide you with it in full.' However, we did not receive the case dossier until 5 October, and Monday the 7th was the date of the first session. This is a violation of the Law of Trial Regulations, which stipulates that the information will be delivered seven days prior to the trial date. I scrutinized the entire file in an attempt to find the information, but to no avail. I found only a written bill of indictment against the accused.

"The citation was numbered 205/91, with the notation that this case was the first to be heard by the State Security Court. Where did the number 205 come from? I can only surmise that it was a continuation of old court-martial numbers! With regard to the bill of indictment in the file, I found that up to the ninth defendant, it was formally a bill of indictment, but from the 10th to the 20th, it was decided without any evidence whatsoever!"

Lawyer Jawad Yunis submitted several requests during the 17 October session, for the court's clarification:

- with regard to concealing information from the defense and not reading it, or rather, not conveying it, and not conveying the bill of indictment and the prosecution's witness list to the accused, as of this date;
- continuing to detain the accused in military prison while none of them have military rank; and,

- keeping the 12th defendant away from the trial session before the last session (on 10 October), despite the fact that he was not disruptive. That abstention was required without prior notification!

Immediately after that, after recessing the session for consultation and deliberation, the head of the court sent a final notice to Jawad Yunis. As an immediate result of that notice, the latter was compelled to announce his withdrawal from the case.

With regard to this same topic, we talked with Professor Ismi Khadr, who is defending some of the accused. We asked her about the course of the trial sessions in the "Muhammad's Army" case. She replied, "I prefer to use the expression 'the so-called Muhammad's Army.'" She went on to say: "There is no doubt that the defense has an opinion regarding the constitutionality of the court. The Law of the State Security Court mangles the principle of separation of powers by creating a vast power that does not enjoy complete independence, as is stipulated in the constitution, inasmuch as its designating is done by the head of the executive authority, who is the prime minister.

"It also violates the principles set forth in the Jordanian National Charter. Jordan is a state of laws based on the principle of separation of powers and on a guarantee of judicial independence.

"There are also certain points pertaining to how the court was formed, and the extent of the congruent nature of this formation with the provisions in force. There was also an incident pertaining to the arrest and interrogation process. In my view, it is a fundamental incident because, from my perspective, although there was an allegation that the Bureau of General Intelligence took control over the organization since the third month, the basic cases that led to the arrest of the organization's individuals and to their being remanded for trial, are criminal acts ascribed to them. However, they were handled in the month after the directives of the martial law administration were cancelled, which means that the basic acts and the arrest of most, or rather, the great majority, of the accused organization individuals was done after 7 August."

As regards Attorney Khadr's reasons for taking on this case, she said:

"I am defending principles of truth and justice. I consider Islam to be the history, civilization, and legacy of this society in which I live. I don't think of myself as outside of this history and culture. I glory in it, and I am proud of it.

"I am proud that these defendants have confidence in me. This expresses convictions that go hand in hand with the spirit of the prevailing religious tolerance and positive dealings that Islam fundamentally embraces as a methodology. Because they give me their trust, I will not be less than this trust. I shall do all I can to uphold my commission."

Counselor Husayn Majlis, in his capacity as a lawyer defending a large number of the accused, submitted a rebuttal to the court containing 10 basic points. At the end of his rebuttal on behalf of the defense, he demanded the immediate release of the defendants because of the absolute invalidity of the interrogations contained in the case file.

His rebuttal included the following points:

- Law No. 24 of 1964 (General Intelligence Law) was devoid of any provision granting the Bureau of General Intelligence the function of arresting and interrogating individuals. This function is within the purview of the public prosecutor and the Prosecutor's Office.
- When the defendants were arrested and interrogated, it was done by General Intelligence officers, and was after the date abolishing the martial law administration of 1967. Therefore, the actions of arresting them, interrogating them and, consequently, taking their depositions by the Bureau of General Intelligence officials are legally invalid.
- There is no truth to the falsehood, as asserted by the public prosecutor of the State Security Court in an independent report, that he summoned all the accused and established identities, and that the testimony the accused gave to the Bureau of General Intelligence is the testimony given to the public prosecutor of the State Security Court. So long as the defendants' testimony was initially taken without legal jurisdiction to do so, it loses all its value and cannot be depicted as testimony. The public prosecutor of the State Security Court must interrogate the defendants in detail and listen to their statements from the beginning.
- Since the bill of indictment by the State Security Court relied upon, and was based upon, the defendants' depositions to the Intelligence Bureau, which we have established as invalid, then this bill of indictment is also invalid.

On Monday 21 October 1991, the fifth session of the trial was held. We will follow up the trial's proceedings in our next edition.

Report Details Housing Projects, Scarcity

92AE0071A London AL-SHARQ-ALAWSAT in Arabic
11 Nov 91 p 11

[Article: "Demography in Jordan Has Changed With Emigres Returning From Gulf"]

[Text] Ten years ago, Jordanians were not accustomed to living in residential apartments. Despite the fact that Amman probably contained hundreds of apartments before that date, the other Jordanian cities did not have this type of building until only 10 years ago.

During this 10-year period, the business of constructing and selling apartments flourished so much that the director of the Jordanian Housing Authority, which is

tasked with building apartments and selling them to low-income citizens, was unable to complete a number of housing projects that the authority had initiated. He explained that there were thousands of vacant apartments in Amman alone, as a result of investors rushing to enter this field, as it commanded a great deal of attention. Today, after the return of nearly 300,000 emigres by the end of this year, and the influx of thousands of Iraqi citizens into Jordan, the vacant apartments have begun to pay dividends, represented by an equal rise in value and rents.

Engineer Yusuf Hayasat, director general of the Housing authority in Jordan, said: "Before the Gulf crisis, and especially before the return of 300,000 emigres from Kuwait, there were approximately 30,000 empty apartments. Today, there are almost none without occupants, either for residential or other purposes. Evidently, half of the returning emigres originally owned a home in Amman; these apartments were immediately occupied by them."

He pointed out that the Housing Authority recently submitted a new housing project, in accordance with the savings system that it employs, which contains 352 apartments. However, the authority has so far received some 2,600 applications for these apartments.

Since its inception, and up to the end of 1990, the Jordanian Housing Authority has completed 81 projects spread over various parts of Jordan, containing 14,913 residential apartments costing 160 million Jordanian dinars, with a total floor space of 1,447,000 square meters. These achievements by the authority constitute 80 percent of total citizen requirements for apartments and housing units.

For the near term, Jordan will need 23,000 new apartments each year, with 68 percent of that required by low-income people. It is expected that the public sector will contribute 12 percent of the public need, leaving room for the private sector to fulfill the remaining percentage.

Concerning the type of residential apartment required, Eng. Hayasat said: "In light of the Housing Authority being directed toward limited income persons, it uses a simple model that satisfies the purpose for the lowest possible cost, by virtue of the fact that the well-to-do have the resources to benefit from apartment projects constructed by the private sector, because of their ability to pay the higher costs."

He referred to the fact that the cost of building apartments for returning emigres is estimated at 379 million dinars, rising to about 540 million dinars in order to provide the supporting utilities and infrastructure required for the returnees' housing units.

Marwan al-'Abdalat, owner of a private apartment-construction firm, said that previously, "apartments with higher specifications in terms of design and amenities were in great demand, but today, a larger share of demand has

begun to be for simpler apartments that satisfy the family's needs at a reasonable cost, together with eschewing luxury in design, construction, and furnishings."

He point out that in 1982, there were about 100,000 apartments built by the private sector that were looking for buyers. "Today, it is impossible for you to find a single vacant apartment. If you can, it will not be easy."

With regard to concentrating on constructing apartment buildings in Amman and not elsewhere, al-'Abdalat said that citizens outside the cities in rural areas, and in small housing complexes, have not yet accepted the mode of living in apartments, so that this [type of] family always looks for a free-standing house. Therefore, the eyes of investors in this field are directed toward Amman in particular, and to certain other large cities, such as al-Zarqa' and Irbid, where a number of apartment housing projects are being built with an average floor space of 180-200 square feet, at an average cost of 30,000 to 50,000 dinars.

Al-'Abdalat added: "Under the present circumstances, I think that we will conduct a field study of market needs. I believe that it will direct us toward building residential apartments with less floor space and at less cost, in order to adjust to the needs of limited-income people, whose numbers are increasing day by day."

Architectural engineer 'Abd-al-Ghani Talabat stated that historic traditions of the city of Amman have stretched over nearly seven centuries after the Romans and Byzantines were succeeded. They called it Philadelphia. It flourished during the Islamic era, in which certain buildings were erected to strike coins. The [Izdan] Mosque, with its mosaic courtyard, was built on the ruins of the al-Husayni Mosque, and is currently visible in the center of Amman.

With regard to the development of an architectural concept for Amman as a program for the Jordanian city and the model for Jordanian architecture, Eng. Talabat said: "The dominant characteristic of Amman's buildings was that they were built of clay, straw, and ancient stone. In the 1950s, a new concept of architecture appeared in Amman, in view of the population increase, the organization of residential land, and the availability of large numbers of graduate engineers who introduced new types of construction influenced by their studies in European and American universities and the kinds of construction there.

"After 1967, buildings began to be multi-storied—residential apartments appeared gradually. This type of construction increased, so that architectural competition became based on the need to satisfy residential requirements and services through the construction of multi-apartment buildings. The country developed a large surplus of unoccupied apartments shortly before the emigres' return. Today, you can hardly find an empty apartment, even if it only has one room and amenities."

Returning Emigres

Nasir Salih Mahmud, a returning emigre from Kuwait who used to work as an accountant, had difficulty finding an apartment. He finally found one with floor space of 100 meters for a monthly rent of 65 dinars. That was at the beginning of the Gulf crisis. With the continual return of emigres and the raising of apartment rents, his problems began when the apartment owner insisted on raising the rent, despite their signed contract. According to the landlord, an apartment like Nasir's rented for 150 dinars monthly. Nasir tried to find another apartment, but without success. One should note that Nasir's salary was no more than 140 dinars per month, and he supports a family of 12 persons.

Apartment Rents Become Unreal

Muhammad al-Munajirah, a newlywed, stated: "I tried for several months to find an apartment, but I was thwarted by the very high rents. An apartment of one room, kitchen, and bath, which previously rented for 50 dinars a month, now rents for 200 dinars. This is a lot of money, for which I can see no justification despite the return of the emigres and the enormous demand for apartments."

Distribution of Housing Authority Projects by Governorate

| Governorate | Number of Projects | Number of Units |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Amman | 23 | 6,891 |
| Al-Zarqa' | 9 | 2,534 |
| Irbid | 8 | 918 |
| Al-Mafraq | 2 | 146 |
| Al-Balqa' | 4 | 220 |
| Al-Karak | 9 | 348 |
| Al-Tafilah | 6 | 248 |
| Ma'an | 20 | 3,608 |
| Total | 81 | 14,913 |

Al-Munajirah added that apartment owners prefer to wait a long time, despite the constant demand, so that they can rent the apartment for higher rates.

KUWAIT

Minutes of 29 Oct National Assembly Meeting

92AE0057A London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Oct 91 p 4

[Article by Fayhan al-'Utaybi and 'Abdallah al-'Utaybi: "National Assembly Increases Marriage Loans to Citizens; Minister al-Rawdan: 'Government Has Allocated 8 Million Pounds for Prisoners and Missing; Al-Khurafi: 'Treatment of Prisoners Issue Shows Failure of Government Policy;' Dumaythir: 'Council of Ministers Required To Purge Leadership Level at Institutions:'

Al-Juwaysiri: 'I Challenge Minister To Bring in Officials From Beyond Fourth District, Employment at Kuwait Airways and Petroleum Organization Is Through Connectionism;' Al-Khudari: 'We Must Not Keep Silent on Government's Disregard for Us;' Al-Tuwayjiri: 'I Thank Press and I Laud SAWT AL-KUWAYT's Role'"]

[Text] Kuwait—Minister of Finance Nasir al-Rawdan has announced that the government has allocated 8 million Kuwaiti dinars to be spent on prisoners and the missing.

National Assembly members have criticized the government policy in its dealing with the prisoners issue and characterized it as a "failure."

Deputy al-Khurafi has said that "we have not learned the outcome of the Arab League envoy's visit to Baghdad." Dr. al-Misha'an has warned that a catastrophe will occur unless it is obviated, but he did not define the nature and dimensions of the catastrophe at the open session held by the National Assembly yesterday morning under the chairmanship of 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id

Before the session was adjourned due to lack of quorum because a number of deputies departed from the hall, the assembly gave its approval to increasing the marriage loan given to citizens to 4,000 Kuwaiti dinars

Chairman: "The session is open."

Muhammad al-Hajraf: "We learned democracy long ago. We determine our policy. The Kuwaiti people determine their own domestic and foreign policy and nobody, whether from inside or outside, dictates to them

"We thank the municipality for its new idea to establish municipalities in every governorate"

Hamad al-Tuwayjiri: "We thank the press for its good coverage of what goes on in the session, especially AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM and SAWT AL-KUWAYT for the major role they play in covering the session"

Marzuq al-Hubbini: "We want the assembly to accomplish the tasks for which it was created. We do not wish to swerve from the core of the issue and enter into needless labyrinths."

And then the session is adjourned because of sharp debates between the members

Chairman: "These sessions last until until 1500. The chairmanship will consider the other issues"

Talal al-'Ayyar: "The agenda reflects an obvious major effort. The time for frankness and disclosure has arrived. An ugly incident occurred recently and we want the press to reveal the facts and the names so that all can know"

'Ali al-'Umar: "A report by the National Committee for Prisoners and the Missing is submitted to the session. It must be considered."

Farmers Suffer

Hammud al-Jabri: "We thank the brothers for their follow-up on the agenda. Farmers are suffering greatly from the consequences of the Iraqi invasion. We must consider these farmers and must make a distinction between industry and agriculture. The proceedings of the sessions must be managed with utter honesty and sincerity."

Mutlaq al-Shulaymi: "We are surpassing the agenda and the debate is going beyond the topic of discussion."

al-Masa'id: "If the deputies fail to adhere, I will adjourn the session and hold the deputies responsible."

al-Khurafi: "We haven't yet found out the outcome of the visit made by the Arab League secretary general's envoy to Baghdad and his meeting with Kuwaiti prisoners. We must learn for sure what is going on with this issue."

Munayzil al-'Anzi: "We beg the deputies to re-submit the issue of difficult debts and to debate it again."

Muhammad al-Musaylim: "Till when will stateless members of the military continue to live without a proper solution for their problems?"

'Abd-al-Latif al-Bahr: "We beg the members to devote full attention to the prisoners issue."

O Council of Ministers!

The agenda was then approved and the second item, concerning incoming papers and messages, was read.

Khalaf Dumaythir al-'Anzi: "This complaint is not the first and it will not be the last. We had hoped that hearts would be purged after liberation. But regrettably, there are officials who are dividing the people, reinstating whomever they wish, dismissing whomever they wish, and reinstating their cliques. Till when will we remain silent on these violations, O National Assembly and Council of Ministers? We are a society that believes in God and we put the country's interest first. Any official who thinks that he can contain the Kuwaiti youth's capabilities and enthusiasm is wrong. Why doesn't the Council of Ministers purge these institutions of these leaders? These officials are not adequately capable and not in the right place. Therefore, we demand that Kuwaiti youth be given the full opportunity to fill those jobs. I am warning of the danger of the violations committed by these cabinet ministry officials."

Minister al-Uthman: "Regarding the citizen's complaint, there may be hidden reasons of which we are not aware that have prevented his reinstatement in his job. We do not wish such words to be used and we do not wish to pass through the current phase by slandering others."

Khalaf Dumaythir: "Minister al-Uthman tries to handle whatever concerns the government. But there is right

and wrong in the government. We are better aware than others of the hardship and problems that the citizen is experiencing."

Slander, Honor

al-Uthman: "My words are clear. Everybody is suffering. My objective is clear and everybody knows what I have meant."

Muhammad al-Hajraf: "Officials in the ministries must give Kuwaiti youth the full opportunity for a job and not shut the doors in their faces. Every Kuwaiti must have employment. This is his right. The government must provide proper work for these young men."

al-Masa'id: "We beg the government to devote attention to Kuwaiti citizens and we ask it to Kuwaitize the ministries completely."

Minister al-Uthman: "The government is devoting full attention to employing Kuwaiti citizens in all government institutions. But there is some demand for some jobs. We are prepared to appoint Kuwaiti young men in institutions that lack the Kuwaiti element. Doors of the Civil Service Commission are open to all Kuwaitis."

Rashid al-Juwaysiri: "Kuwaitis need help with work. The government must throw the doors wide open for Kuwaiti youth to join work in the government ministries and institutions. We ask the minister of state to visit the Civil Service Commission and to see with his own eyes the hardship experienced by these young men, who possess great capabilities and who are specialized in scientific fields. Till when will these violations by officials and leaders of the government ministries continue?"

Kuwait's Sons

Nasir al-Rawdan: "Deputy al-Juwaysiri has said that the government discriminates among Kuwait's sons. The truth is that the government doesn't discriminate among Kuwaiti citizens. We believe that there is no Kuwaiti who cannot get a job."

al-Juwaysiri: "We are here to task whoever makes a mistake. We are asking the minister to pay greater attention to these issues that concern many citizens. I challenge the minister to show that there are leaders at the level of deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers who live beyond the Fourth District. Are there no capable Kuwaitis other than the current officials?"

Talal al-Ayyar: "The plaintiff resigned because of his special circumstances and we must view his reinstatement in his job with compassion. The government apparatus must consider the Kuwaiti youth and their need for work. These young men have all kinds of university specializations."

Rights of Stateless

Barrak al-Nun: "We don't know what is intended by the failure to discuss complaints openly in our assembly. We demand that this employee be reinstated in his job. We demand that the Kuwaiti Airways and the Petroleum Corporation be Kuwaitized, because these two companies are surrounded by an iron wall and curtain and because only "certain" people get to be employed in them. The plaintiff must be returned to his job and his rights must be preserved fully."

Fayiz al-Bughayli: "The stateless have not gotten their rights. Therefore, the honorable among them must be given their rights and reinstated in their jobs."

'Abbas al-Khudari: "The prisoners issue is a national issue from which the Kuwaiti people in their entirety, not just the prisoners' families, suffer. The interaction between the assembly and the concerned authorities is "very cold." Therefore, we must mobilize our hearts and our minds for this issue and we must move at all levels, not just at the level of the Arab states. We must move at the level of world powers and UN organizations. We must raise this issue at the Security Council before Iraqi oil is [allowed to be] exported."

'Ali al-'Umar: "Some ministers have not cooperated with the Committee for Prisoners and the Missing and have not given this issue any attention. Moreover, the Arab League has not done anything regarding this issue. This is why we demand that greater attention be devoted to Kuwait's number-one issue."

Muhammad al-Mash'an: "Why the delay in [allocating] the budget for the Prisoners Committee's Executive Office? Why the shortage in the committee's cadre? These problems must be solved promptly. Why hasn't Ambassador Ahmad al-Fahd been summoned? What are the reasons that have prevented summoning him to Kuwait?"

'Ali al-'Umar: "Ambassador al-Fahd will come to Kuwait and will familiarize the committee with new developments concerning the prisoners. The committee is a legislative committee, not an executive committee that can implement all tasks."

Muhammad al-Mash'an: "If the current condition continues, a catastrophe may occur. Therefore, everybody must obviate this danger."

Alms House

Minister Dari al-'Uthman: "The prisoners issue is the main preoccupation of the government, which is looking into dealing with the consequences of the Iraqi aggression under the UN umbrella. These consequences include the prisoners and detainees issue, the demarcation of borders, and reparations. The government has decided to move at all levels and has contacted all countries and international organizations. Moreover, his highness the country's emir has dispatched envoys to a number of Arab heads of state. The government has

made the contacts it should make with the international and legal organizations and channels. We want this issue to be discussed under international pressure and we want to exploit all efforts to exert constant pressure. We have delivered lists of the prisoners' names to these international organizations and institutions."

Ibrahim Bu-Rusayli: "I hope that the prisoners issue will not be exploited by some countries to put pressure on us."

Marzuq al-Hubayni: "We must not hold one party responsible without knowing the reasons. At a previous session, the minister of justice told us that the prisoners' families are getting salaries. But we were then surprised to find that these families are financed by the Alms House and charitable organizations. The government must move on the prisoners issue. There are countries who have put their affairs on hold because of one or two prisoners. In our case, more than 2,000 prisoners are involved."

Minister Nasir al-Rawdan: "On the prisoners issue, the government is moving at the highest levels. The Council of Ministers has decided to disburse to families of the prisoners and of the missing a salary of 300 dinars per single prisoner and 500 dinars per married prisoner. Eight million dinars have been allocated for the families of the prisoners and the missing. The National Prisoners Committee devotes full attention to this issue and makes its decisions with complete fairness."

'Ali al-'Umar: "We are aware of the role of the government, led by his highness the country's emir, in following up on the prisoners issue."

Minister of finance: "The rapporteur has touched on the absence of the officials in charge of the committee work. If there are names other than those of Deputy Ahmad al-Fahd, the member must spell them out."

'Ali al-'Umar: "There are names, but I cannot recollect them now."

Chairman: "Session is adjourned for noon prayers."

Government Failure

Jasim Qabazard: "The presence of his highness the emir in the United Nations, and the international community's response to the emir are the best evidence of the international place Kuwait holds among peace-loving countries. We urge the government to continue raising the issue of our prisoners at home, and in the entire world, more properly and without delay. The entire world must know how concerned the Kuwaiti Government is with its people and know that Kuwait supports just causes and respects human rights. We are confident that the world will find itself compelled to sympathize more strongly with the issue of our prisoners."

Khalifah al-Khurafi: "We will not develop if the government continues as is and persists in following paths that lead to no results. We are aware that his highness the

emir exerts major efforts to underline the prisoners issue at the highest levels. We must devote greater attention to the families of the prisoners and of the missing. The government has created a prisoners committee, but the method followed by the government generally is faulty. Therefore, we beg the ministers to give everybody his due and to study all issues comprehensively. We notice that the choice of officials is a failure. The prisoners issue shows the government's failure to deal with important issues. There are Kuwaiti youth who are capable of working ceaselessly for this issue, but they have not been given the full opportunity. They follow up on the issues of the prisoners' families with great interest. There are capable young men who would do this country proud. Why isn't these young men's willingness to give exploited? There are young men in the Association for the Defense of War Victims also. I want to tell the brother deputies that we should not raise the question of sedition between Kuwait's citizens and between citizens of the east and of the south, or elsewhere. We do not want division among the Kuwaiti people, because this is not in the country's interest."

Muhammad al-Hajraf: "You are the first one to raise the issue of discrimination."

al-Khurafi: "You are a liar."

Khalaf al-'Anzi: "This is not permissible."

al-Khurafi: "I apologize to my colleague al-Hajraf and I withdraw my words."

Rashid al-Juwaysiri: "When such issues are raised, you are the reason."

al-Khurafi: "Kuwait's people are [divided into] easterners and southerners."

Khalaf al-'Anzi: "He says that Kuwait's people are easterners and southerners and forgets Kuwait's external borders and Kuwait's other citizens."

Muhammad al-Muhmil: "The al-Hamayil people are better than you." [meaning unknown]

al-Khurafi: "Those who had come out of greed for Kuwait's oil fled whereas the others stayed."

Muhammad Hayf al-Hajraf: "We must not keep silent on al-Khurafi's words. If this is the approach of Kuwait's people, then there is division. As for al-Khurafi's words about who left first, the first to leave were those nurtured by his ideas."

Prisoners Committee

Hisam al-Rumi: "We beg that a vote be taken on the Prisoners Committee's recommendations."

The assembly approved the proposal and moved to the next item.

Hamad al-Tuwayjiri: "We, especially in the National Assembly, must consider the qualitative leap sought by

his highness the emir. The right recommendations must be made in order to highlight Kuwait's number-one issue, namely the prisoners issue. The government must exert ceaseless efforts through international channels."

Jawad al-Matruk: "The prisoners issue is our main preoccupation. But it is being raised in the media and for propaganda and commercial purposes. Therefore, we must curtail this phenomenon. We also urge the government to devote greater attention to the issue of the prisoners and the missing. Greater importance must be attached to the issue. Special treatment must be accorded the prisoners' families. Through this podium, I urge the government to aid the prisoners' and martyrs' families in deeds, not in words."

Government and Silence

Ibrahim Bu-Rusayli: "The Legislative Committee has examined issues connected with the prisoners and has adopted the appropriate recommendations."

'Abbas al-Khudari: "If the government fails to respond to any resolution, we must not remain silent. We must adopt a resolution in this regard, because the assembly's term is short and we must accomplish something."

Rapporteur Ya'qub al-Sharhan: "The committee has completed [examining] the report on raising marriage loans to 4,000 dinars, of which 2,000 dinars will be in the form of a grant and 2,000 to replace the current sum."

The proposal was submitted and approved.

Rapporteur: "We request withdrawal of the seventh and eighth reports submitted by the Finance and Economy Committee concerning the Savings and Loan Bank until they are studied."

Arguments and consultations took place among the deputies on lack of quorum and this motivated al-Juwaysiri to ask the General Secretariat to make sure that quorum is met. Consequently, it became evident that a quorum was lacking.

al-Juwaysiri: "Session is adjourned for lack of quorum."

Highlights

The session started at 0910 and adjourned at 1310. It was chaired by 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Masa'id. When he left for a break, Secretary Talal al-'Ayyar took over the chairmanship because al-Juwaysiri, the deputy speaker, was not present.

Numerous members went beyond the agenda and swerved from the arrangement, despite the speaker's endeavors and his threats to adjourn the session because of violations.

A number of deputies criticized journalists and the inadequate coverage [of the sessions]. Commenting, one member said: "They want the journalists to write about them."

Muhammad al-Musaylim complained that a local paper has canceled Section 9 in al-Firdaws.

When the audience applauded Deputy Khalaf Dumaythir al-'Anzi, al-Masa'id said: "You applauded the previous assembly so much that you lost it." The hall erupted with laughter. al-Musaylim responded: "We don't wish to hurt anybody."

At the outset of the session, a verbal argument broke out between 'Abbas al-Khudari and Mutlaq al-Shulaymi, and it would have ended in serious consequences had not some deputies intervened and had not the chairman threatened to adjourn the session.

The minister of communications told the journalists: "You are making great efforts and they are criticizing you." The AL-RA'Y AL-AMM editor answered: "Except us." The minister responded: "For the sake of the chairman."

When Khalifah al-Khurafi said that Kuwait is divided into south and east, a number of deputies protested, namely Khalaf Dumaythir al-'Anzi, Sa'dun al-'Utaybi, Muhammad al-Muhmil, Munayzil al-'Anzi, 'Ali al-'Utaybi, and Muhammad Hayf al-Hajraf.

Secretary Talal al-'Ayyar rose more than once and discussed issues, especially the farmers issue.

The name of Adam, the Arab League envoy, was mentioned repeatedly by deputies who demanded to know the results he achieved in his visit to Baghdad.

A number of deputies had confections and cocoa in the hall. What is more, one deputy gave up his turn in return for a sweet pastry.

Trying to clarify his opinion, Deputy Khalifah al-Khurafi said: "I ask that this issue not be raised so that there will be no division."

A number of deputies were observed moving frequently in the hall, especially toward the "government" seats.

When al-Juwaysiri characterized leaders in the cabinet ministries as people who live outside the Fourth District, one deputy responded: "Move your home to within the Fourth District."

Munayzil al-'Anzi demanded resolutely and enthusiastically that debts owed by farmers be dropped.

The General Secretariat employees exerted enormous efforts to facilitate things for deputies, journalists, and the audience, even though some deputies had attacked them.

Branch and Root

Commenting on dispatching Arab League Envoy Ambassador Adam to Baghdad to discuss the issue of the prisoners and the missing, Deputy Ibrahim Bu-Rusayli said that the government made a mistake because it

abandoned the "root"—the United Nations—and turned to the branch, the Arab League.

LEBANON

Phalangist-Lebanese Forces Differences Viewed

92A50026A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
10 Oct 91 p 2

[Article: "Problems Continue Between Phalangists and Forces"]

[Text] Informed sources have revealed that the leader of the Phalangist Party, Minister Georges Sa'adah, was recently subjected to pressure by Phalangist Party Political Office members, who are supporters of the Lebanese Forces (LF), to resign from the government because the Phalangist Party ought not to provide cover for a government that does not deserve it, even though that would embarrass the party and its allies before public opinion. Lebanese Forces sympathizers in the Phalangist Party believe that President Ilyas al-Hawari had promised to resolve a problem stemming from the Amnesty Law by issuing a special pardon which had the validity of general amnesty. This occurred when a question was raised about the existence of memoranda suspending the right of a number of Phalangist and LF personnel for a grace period not to exceed two weeks. He then asked that the grace period be extended for an additional two weeks. However, the month of September passed and nothing happened, and it became incumbent upon the leader of the Phalangist Party to take a position deemed necessary by the Political Office: either retirement or resignation, unless the problem was resolved.

The timing of this affair coincided with the beginning of the open appearance of differences between Phalangists and the LF, especially after Minister Sa'adah forced the LF Phalangists to choose between remaining in the party and being loyal to it, or joining the LF's new party. The effects of these words shook up the LF, especially the LF supporters in the Phalangist Party's Political Office, who hinted in the party's recent meeting that the Forces' supporters' choice was the Phalangist Party, without concealing their wish to retain a decision inside the party.

Although those who are well-informed about events of the quadripartite meeting—which brought together Minister Sa'adah, Dr. Samir Ja'ja', Minister Roger Dib, and Deputy-designate Munir al-Hajj in Ghidras shortly before Sa'adah traveled to Paris—are certain that the meeting's atmosphere was positive and rational, the real situation does not reflect such a climate. That does not mean that it was not appropriate for conducting business and settlement. It is expected that Sa'adah's return from his trip will be followed by a series of initiatives designed to improve the climate—although the above-mentioned meeting completes a series of meetings to prepare for the party's general conference scheduled for 1-3 November.

1991—in search of a calmness that would allow the conferees to apply themselves to all pending problems.

It is clear that the problem that soured the visit made by the bloc of Lebanese Phalangist Party deputies to President Ilyas al-Hawari at the beginning of last week had quite a reaction in partisan circles. This is in view of the confusion that occurred when retired minister of State Roger Dib—upon departing with the bloc's deputies—voiced criticism of the government's performance. He said that his conditions for return from retirement were as cited by the deputy party chief, Deputy-designate Munir al-Hajj, in a statement dissimilar in terms of content.

A Phalangist official believes that in his statement, Dib expressed the Lebanese Forces' position, which differs from the party's position, i.e., that it was appropriate for him, as the LF's representative in the government, to visit the president alone. As for participation in the meeting as the Phalangist Party's secretary general, he had to let Deputy al-Hajj express the party's views vis-a-vis situations. In the opinion of observers, this problem will expedite raising the subject of settling the ambiguous relationship between the LF and the Phalangists. Even though matters have reached the point where they are more determined today than at any time in the past to terminate this relationship after years of flight, trickery, and patching up, the two sides have cooperated from the time the LF was established in August 1976 until today.

The two sides have become convinced of the need to put the Phalangist-Lebanese Forces relationship on the operating table before the coming election in June 1992. On 9 November 1991, the Phalangist "Voice of Lebanon" Radio began to reveal the nature of the existing dispute when it contacted party President Dr. Georges Sa'adah in Paris and asked him for his viewpoint about this problem. However, Sa'adah did not respond in favor of the step that Minister Dib had taken. It is well-known that the Voice of Lebanon is the only media outlet for the Phalangists, now that the newspaper AL-'AMAL has ceased publication. One of the closest of the party president's friends, Simon al-Khazin, operates it.

Observers add that aspects of the dispute will become more and more obvious with the approach of the party's general conference, since it is expected that it will be the principal item dealt with by the conferees, because there will be no reform, nor action, nor new political speeches before the conclusion of the difficulty existing between the LF and the party. In these circles, the conviction is growing that the LF leader, Dr. Samir Ja'ja', will plunge into the battle for party leadership in opposition to Minister Sa'adah, because the process offers a better guarantee than if a battle occurred between Sa'adah and Minister Roger Dib, or Deputy-designate Georges Kassab, or even Political Office member Alfred Madi, although Ja'ja's leadership of the Phalangists would prepare him to form a front that would be supported by the Phalangists and the LF Party, and would bring together those in exile. It is a body that he is working to

create, so that its leadership would support Georges Shakib Sa'adah [name as published] from al-Shuf, which would strengthen the position of the LF leader and make him the strongest figure on the Christian scene. Just like Minister Walid Junblatt for the Druze and Minister Nabih Birri for the Shi'ites, it would make Ja'ja' the strongest and most prominent negotiator for the Christians.

As of now, Minister Sa'adah has not made a final decision as to a confrontation with Dr. Ja'ja'. He has not yet responded to contacts that some senior Phalangists are making with him. They have proposed to him that he begin a dialogue with persons favorable to former president Amin al-Jumayyil, former LF leader Fu'ad Abu-Nadir, and many retired Phalangist dignitaries and cadres. Sa'adah is so far reluctant to pursue this option, but his response has not been negative. Many groups of Phalangists, who still support partisan legitimacy, have begun to think seriously about forming a bloc in order to adopt the appropriate position at the appropriate time. The thrust is to work to convince the LF to maintain the party's identity, role, and freedom from pressure, and to establish firmer relationships of alliance, or else they will find themselves forced to leave the party and search for a formula for new action.

SUDAN

Elected Bodies To Replace Salvation Committees

92AF0121A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
13 Oct 91 p 4

[Article by Kamal Hamid: "Sudan Moves To Dissolve Salvation Committees, Appoint National Constituent Assembly"]

[Text] Khartoum (AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT)—Early next year the Sudan will announce the dissolution of all the appointed People's Salvation Committees that are now playing an enormous political, economic, and security role. They will be reorganized by elections after passage of the new law that was drafted a few days ago.

This was stated to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Brigadier General Hasan Hamadayn, chairman of the Political Committee of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). He said that a draft of the law had been submitted for study to all trade union and popular sectors before being announced officially. He added that after the law is issued, all existing People's Salvation Committees will be dissolved and preparations will begin for popular conferences from top to bottom. Elections will start at the beginning of the year at the People's Committee level, then at the level of councils, governorates, and states.

Brig. Gen. Hamadayn announced that implementing the conferences faces problems because of the local divisions for councils and governorates. However, he indicated

that the invitation to a conference of state governors will be sent out on 3 December to settle this matter before the beginning of next year.

As the committee chairman and general secretary of the anticipated political organization, Brig. Gen. Hasan Hamadayn, explained that the next few weeks will witness the announcement of a national constituent assembly to serve as a parliament. It will play an oversight role over the executive apparatus and will exercise legislative authority while the construction of the new political system is being completed. Afterwards, a new national assembly will be elected.

In a related development, the RCC's chairman, Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir announced a decision to create a committee for foreign affairs under his chairmanship. The committee will have responsibility for formulating solutions and proposals; improving foreign policy; setting priorities in foreign dealings; settling foreign affairs problems that are common to the ministries, departments, government-owned enterprises, and various bodies; monitoring agreements and protocols between the Sudan and other countries; and following and evaluating diplomatic executive performance.

The committee's membership will include RCC members Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, deputy chairman of the Political Committee; Colonel Bakri Hasan Salih, head of the general security apparatus; the foreign minister; the finance minister; the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry; and the secretary of the People's World Friendship Committee. In another development, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has decided to turn customs posts into a regular army force, technically and militarily, under the Interior Ministry, but administratively under the Finance Ministry.

The question of militarizing customs was the subject of disagreement between workers in the customs department. In 1984, former president Ja'far Numayri announced that customs workers would be converted into a regular army force. However, the transitional government of Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab responded to pressure from some workers and decided to re-convert them into a civilian force.

Opposition Condemns Split, Ruptures Self

Opposes Two-State Solution

92AF0119A Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic 17 Oct 91 p 5

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ—AL-SHARQ is exclusively publishing the statement of the Democratic National Grouping [DNG], which was issued today in Cairo and which condemns the separation of southern Sudan from the north. The statement called upon democratic and nationalistic forces in Africa and the Arab world to support those defending the unity of Sudanese soil.

The DNG also called upon Eric Mashar and Lam Akol, who called for the split, to strive for Sudanese unity, and not to be carried along on the apron-strings of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which ultimately aims to split the north from the south and set up a religious state in the north. The text of the statement is as follows:

The DNG, the legitimate representative of the Sudanese people, based on the legacies and fixed principles of the Sudanese national movement, affirms its determination to defend the unity of the nation and condemns with all its might any attempt that tries to divide it. Therefore, the DNG salutes the Sudanese Popular Liberation Movement [SPLM], which has remained a friend to the DNG's charter which was signed on 21 October 1989, and which the SPLM signed in March 1990, and to all charters and treaties, beginning with the Koka Dam treaty in March 1986 and the Sudanese peace initiative of 16 November 1988, and ending with the political communique of the meeting of the DNG leaders in Addis Ababa on 15-19 March 1991. These charters and treaties affirmed that democratic choice based on the rule of the people and plurality is the only path to which our people consent for building their new and unified nation, based on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and complete separation of powers; a democratic system strengthening the human rights guaranteed in regional and international agreements. This includes freedom of opinion, organization, and belief, and freedom of worship and the performance of religious practices; a system that respects a diversity of races, religions, spiritual beliefs, cultures, and customs; a system that is based on the fact that all Sudanese are equal before the law and in holding public positions and equal in all rights and duties irrespective of race, religion, sex, political orientation, or creed.

The DNG realizes that the circumstances of the difficult national struggle against the rule of the military control of the NIF and its program that aims to split the nation have aroused voices in the north and south calling for partition, but the steadfast Sudanese people deeply believe that the security, progress, and peace of the nation will not be achieved except under the banners of national unity and democracy. The Democratic National Grouping calls upon Brother Dr. Lam Akol and Brother Dr. Eric Mashar in striving for the progress of the struggle to restore democracy and freedom of our people to strive for the unity and cohesiveness of the popular movement. The DNG is confident that their presence in the movement of national democratic struggle will always be wanted by all the Sudanese democratic forces.

Our people are not only defending the unity of their soil and national security, but they are also defending Arab national security and African regional security. Our brothers around us warn that the threat of the plans for a split will involve everyone. Therefore, the DNG calls upon all national forces in Africa and the Arab world to do their duty and offer their quick and effective support to the fighters defending the unity of Sudanese soil. The unity of Sudan and the peace of its land will remain a

trust borne by the Sudanese national movement, and it will defend it against all threats and plots. The DNG believes that a split in any form, and under any pretext, is illegal and will be rejected and opposed by the Sudanese people by all means. The DNG holds the government of the NIF responsible for the breakup of the nation.

The Democratic National Grouping has held meetings in which all leaders of the parties and forces that rally under its banner have participated, and they unanimously agreed to set a time in the near future to hold the small-scale constitutional conference, and they also set another time for holding the second, expanded meeting, which will authorize the draft transitional constitution and the rest of the programs for the transitional period.

Long live the struggle of our people for unity and democracy.

Opposition Divisions Mount

92AF0119B Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 1

[Article by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned from sources connected with the Sudanese opposition that serious splits have begun to appear within the Democratic Nation Grouping (DNG) that is opposing the government of the Sudan, and that as a result of these differences Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi was forced to come to Cairo and stay there temporarily in an apartment in Misr al-Jadidah, instead of his permanent headquarters in London, to escape friction with the opposition parties there, which had previously demanded that he step down from the leadership of the opposition after Sadiq al-Mahdi got out of prison and became the spokesman for freedom in the name of the Ummah Party. He left also because of behavior of which Mubarak al-Fadil himself was accused, which marred the opposition's reputation, such as transferring a portion of the material support to his private account, including income from newspapers and opposition publications. This caused most of these newspapers to cease publication. These included AL-WAHDAH newspaper, of which only four issues were published, and the AL-NIL newspaper, published by the Ummah Party, of which only about five issues were published, and finally, AL-SUDAN newspaper, which also ceased for lack of funds. These developments were discussed in an opposition meeting held at the Democratic Unionist Party headquarters in Misr al-Jadidah in the middle of this month.

In that meeting, opposition elements attacked the Garang Movement for its recent individual activity, far removed from the DNG, such as the meeting which was held in the city of Torit in southern Sudan, in which partition and the establishment of two states in the north and south were proposed. Opposition sources indicated that the Garang Movement did not respond to criticism and attacked some of the leaders of the DNG for their

interference in the affairs of the Sudanese Popular Liberation Movement (SPLM), and accused them of carrying on the struggle in five-star hotels and furnished apartments.

Entertainment Censorship Committee Proposed

92AF0121B Khartoum AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH in Arabic 19 Oct 91 p 4

[Article: "Law Proposed To Censor Songs Lowering Public Morals"]

[Text] Participants in consultations about public conduct under Islamic law (shari'ah) held on 9 October under the chairmanship of Brigadier General Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Sa'id, governor of Khartoum, discussed the performance of Sudanese television. They indicated that it had been proceeding well recently and contained a good deal of religious material and programming.

They called for the formation of a television committee to accentuate Islamic conduct and review programs and material presented by the medium so that it would be in line with shari'ah. There was a proposal to present a television program about the regime, similar in its goals to the program "Revolutionizing Service." The meeting made it clear that discussion of the performance of television is valuable and beneficial because of the importance of the medium. The positive images that have been presented on it have come about through individual initiatives. Merely increasing the amount of religious programming is not the point; rather, there must be attention to the essence of the material presented on the screen. The participants also indicated that a special committee should be formed to evaluate artistic programs and items. A local law is now being drafted to deal with songs lowering public morals, as well as video stores and any other phenomena harming public conduct under shari'ah. A committee should be formed to censor degrading songs and review all song material. They pointed to television sports programs containing views of athletic uniforms that do not cover parts of the body, which under shari'ah should not be exposed, and to movies that arouse the instincts of young people and cause them to miss work during the day to watch films.

The conference was attended by Dr. al-Hajj Adam, general supervisor of the People's Committees; Dr. Jalal Muhammad Ahmad, secretary general of the government; representatives from the police, secondary school federations, and television; the state director of information; the Khartoum coordinator; national youth secretaries; the political committee; and the women's union.

Fourfold Income Increase Possible in 10 Years

92AF0121C Khartoum AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH in Arabic 23 Oct 91 p 1

[Article: "Finance Minister to National Strategy Conference: 'Strict Adherence to Spiritual Precepts and Moral Values Needed as Firm Foundation for Revival'"]

[Text] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Hamdi, minister of finance and economic planning, presented before the conference on comprehensive strategy the fundamental principles of the 10-year strategy for economic salvation. He said that a twentyfold income increase is a large goal that will be difficult to realize in 10 years; a fourfold increase is possible if the components of the national income remain stable over the 10 years and if there is a firm base from which Sudan's economy can launch itself.

The finance minister stressed the need for strict adherence to spiritual precepts and to moral commitment and discipline as a firm foundation for revival.

He indicated that the foundation for a resurgence now is fragile and shaky, with production focusing on rain-dependent agriculture.

In this regard, he pointed to the need to lay a sound basis of production by vertical and horizontal expansion in the rain-fed agricultural sector, so that it reaches 16 million feddans.

Mr. Hamdi said that strategic change requires making qualitative leaps in the exploitation of Sudanese oil and the creation of an excellent investment climate attractive to investors.

He said that a good investment climate requires the presence of constants, including a stable political, legal, moral, and social climate. Mr. Hamdi called for changing all laws and regulations so that they become flexible and suitable to an investment environment. He indicated that the 10-year plan requires huge resources that will come only by attracting private foreign capital. He asked the directors of departments and government-owned companies to define foreign and local currency needs for an upswing during the 10 years.

The minister focused on the importance of effecting an administrative revolution in the public and private sector in order to acquire qualified technical talents and raise levels [of expertise]. He also stressed opening Sudan to Islamic and Arab expertise as the beginning of attracting foreign capital. Mr. Hamdi called attention to the need to develop the mining area, to develop export capacity in the field of animal resources and processing industries, and to improve the transportation and communication infrastructure.

Mr. Hamdi asked the strategy conference to present comparative studies of economic development so as to realize stability and discipline in accordance with the country's Islamic orientation. Attention should be given to lowering inflation to a reasonable rate, because the current situation is unreasonable and drives away investment. He called for setting a single, realistic exchange rate that would cause the market mechanism to surge ahead.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Statistics on Foreign Nationals in Dubayy

92AE0062B London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
4 Oct 91 p 11

[Text] Dubayy, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Department of Immigration and Visas in Dubayy issued a large number of new visitor, work, and residence visas during the last six months. This large number reflects optimism in a robust economic situation witnessed by Dubayy and the Emirates in general.

The number of visas granted to Indians in the aforementioned period was 25,491, of which 13,429 were work visas, 7,216 were visitors' visas, and 4,856 were residence visas. Residence visas are usually given to wives and children of foreigners living in Dubayy in order to work.

Egyptians came second in the aforementioned period, of whom 9,863 persons received visas. The number of visiting Egyptians was 1,174, while 8,041 received residence visas. 7,854 Syrians received entry visas, of which 7,250 were visitors' visas, 408 were work visas, and 196 were residence visas.

Sri Lankans in the Emirates were in fourth place among those receiving residence visas, and most of this group were servants in homes and offices, and they do not have the right to bring their families for visits or residence. This explains the drop in visits by people of these nationalities, which are practically limited to visits by businessmen. Also, a number of Sri Lankan and Filipino servants who come to Dubayy with work visas ultimately settle in Kuwait. Filipinos were in fifth place, having obtained 4,808 visas in the past six months, of which 1,225 were visitors' visas, 3,249 were work visas, and 334 were residence visas. It should be mentioned that Sri Lankans and Filipinos constitute the great majority of non-Arab workers in the first-class hotels and restaurants and in the elite stores.

During the same period, 3,722 Iranians got entry visas to Dubayy, of which 2,691 were visitors' visas, 545 were work visas, and 586 were residence visas.

The number of those from Lebanon getting visas was 1,713, including 1,297 visitors' visas, 297 work visas, and 119 residence visas.

Also, 1,620 Bengalis got entry visas, including 1,241 work visas. Sixty-three Jordanians got residence visas, one Jordanian got a work visa, and 22 Jordanians got visitors' visas.

Vairous visas were obtained by 751 Britons, including 433 work visas and 267 residence visas, after Britons were made subject to the visa laws.

Also, 22 visitors' visas were granted to Iraqis, and one visitors' visa was granted to a Palestinian, and five work visas and 23 residence visas were granted to Palestinians as well.

Soviets got 81 visas, and Frenchmen got 171 visas.

Agreement Signed for AMX-30 Leclerc Tanks

92AE0062A London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
23 Oct 91 p 47

[Text] The official visit made recently to France by Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, confirmed once again the strength of friendly relations between the two countries in various fields.

In addition to aspects of cultural, trade, and economic cooperation between Paris and Abu Dhabi, Shaykh Zayid's visit was the occasion for showcasing the excellent political relations between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and France, as well as for discussing security issues that concern the two countries in particular.

It is known that since the beginning of the seventies, these relations have continued to be strong and were constantly improving, just as the rapprochement of the two countries' points of view on issues pertaining to the Middle East and Gulf regions reflected positively on the atmosphere of the visit, in which the president of the United Arab Emirates received a very friendly welcome from French President Francois Mitterrand.

The visit also confirmed the prominent position held for several years by French arms in supplying the Emirates, which has previously signed numerous aerial, naval, and ground arms deals with the large French companies working in this field. The military agreement that was concluded can be seen in this context. It includes supplying the Emirates' ground forces with 25 modern Leclerc tanks, the latest produced by the advanced plants of the Giat Industrie company. The new tank completes the furnishing of Emirate army with AMX-30 tanks. The agreement also stipulated that the Leclerc deal would be paid in quantities of oil produced by the Emirates. Observers noted that this important deal might be a preface to other deals within the context of firm cooperation between the two countries.

INDIA

Minister Expresses Apprehension About Uruguay Talks

92AS0294E Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English
19 Nov 91 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Nov (PTI)—Commerce Minister P. Chidambaram today expressed apprehension that the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations would not be completed before the end of this year.

Addressing the world economic forum on "integrating India into the international system," organised by the Confederation of Engineering Industry (DEI) here, he said the negotiations would not be completed because protectionist measures in advance countries showed no signs of abatement with fresh areas against free and non-discriminatory trading regime rising.

Mr. Chidambaram said the conclusions likely to emerge out of the Uruguay talks might not be "fair and non-discriminatory" to the developing countries.

He said there was an upsurge in protectionist measures by the advanced countries with anti-dumping clauses being frequently resorted to by rich countries against the imports of developing countries.

Mr. Chidambaram said while market access to exports from developing countries such as textiles and agriculture remained restricted in the rich countries, the developed countries should be "more sensitive" to the developing countries to ensure that the world trade system remained free and fair.

IPRs

The Minister said in areas like intellectual property rights (IPRs) where much was made out of the position of countries like India, the national concern on patents and trademarks was well articulated by India.

He said it was not fair to link India's stand on patents with other areas since countries like Turkey and Indonesia which do not have comparable patent laws enjoyed much greater foreign direct investment.

He said in the area of patents, India's concern in the field of food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals was widely known and India would not compromise on this.

He emphasised India's abiding commitment to free and multilateral trading system and said the recent policy changes bore ample testimony of India's continuous efforts to integrate itself with the world economy.

Answering questions from foreign participants, the Minister made it clear that patent laws would not be altered to suit the conditions of multilateral agencies. He said the cost of medical treatment in western countries was four times higher than in India and as long as drugs are not available at affordable prices, patent laws would not be changed to suit foreign drug companies.

Asked about India's trade relations with the Soviet Union and the independent republics, the Minister said negotiations were in a fairly advanced stage with Central Soviet and other republics.

Trade Blocs

Answering queries on regional trading blocs, the Minister said while India did not create any such bloc, it could not remain blind to reality. In the face of increasing trading blocs, India should also keep the option open to join such forum if it involved increased two-way trade.

In this regard, he said the Association of Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) was more than a bloc since India and most of the countries of APEC had complementaries.

He said before 31 March 1992 he would be in a position to provide quantitative details about foreign direct investment flows into India as a sequel of the liberalised policy.

Finance Minister Meets Press in Madras

92AS0277A Madras THE HINDU in English
2 Nov 91 p 1

[Article: "Inflation Rate Declining"]

[Text] Madras, Nov. 1—"I expect to end this year with a single digit inflation," Dr. Manmohan Singh, Union Finance Minister, said here today.

The Finance Minister, who was addressing a news conference, said that the inflation rate which had been 15.7 percent in September had since declined to 14.7 percent. It would further decline when the balance of payments situation improved.

He said that if the inflation rate came down, "we will reverse the direction of interest rates also. If inflation rate is five percent, the real rate of interest should be not more than five percent."

Dr. Manmohan Singh, replying to questions on what the Centre proposed to do about enforcing fiscal discipline on the State Governments, said that during his meeting with the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Ms. Jayalalitha, she had outlined the measures taken up by the State Government to bridge the budgetary gap. "I assured her that it will be the intention of the Central Government to cooperate with the Government of Tamil Nadu," but he declined to elaborate.

Relaxing import curbs: The Finance Minister said import restrictions would be relaxed in a few weeks when the foreign exchange reserves, now around Rs.[rupees]6,000 crores, increased. He said that when the new Government took over at the Centre, the reserves were about Rs. 2,500 crores. He said that while the trend in revenue collections of Central Excise and income-tax was much better than was anticipated in the

Budget, this was not so with Customs revenues because of the steps taken to reduce imports.

He expressed the hope that Customs revenues might improve in the next five months. "I hope to make it up with an improvement in Central Excise revenues," he said.

Replying to questions on the repayments of the loans taken from the International Monetary Fund, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the total repayments during the next three years would be 3.5 billion dollars per year. There was no danger of the country getting into a debt trap but the Government must go ahead with the structural reforms it had announced and the country's export trade must become internationally competitive. Answering questions on public sector undertakings and the proposed closing down of sick units, he said so far out of the proposed Rs. 2,500 crores of disinvestment of shares held by the Governments, Rs. 1,250 crores will be disinvested before December and about 50 enterprises have been included in the scheme for disinvestment. He reiterated that the workers interest will be wholly protected while implementing decisions to close down units which had become patently unviable and a perpetual drag on the country's resources. He said that during the next one month there would be a credible proposal on matters relating to the implementation of the proposal for taking care of the workers' interests with the national fund of Rs. 200 crores proposed in the 1991-92 budget. The World Bank from which a soft loan of 400 to 600 million dollars repayable over a long period for this purpose did not also want the decisions relating to the closing down of the sick public sector undertakings to fall heavily on the working class.

No relaxation of vigil: The other points made by the Finance Minister are:

(i) "We will not spare anybody who is indulging in tax evasions, smuggling and other anti-social activities. There is no relaxation of vigil.

(ii) Since the new Government had taken over, the fiscal situation had been brought under control and the process for reducing the fiscal deficit to manageable proportions within three years has begun."

(iii) The exchange reserves have now crossed Rs. 6,000 crores. "We have repaid in full the loan taken against gold and this gold has now become the unencumbered property of the Reserve Bank of India."

Pat for Chidambaram:

(iv) Mr. P. Chidambaram, Commerce Minister, has done "a magnificent job in restructuring the trading system." Dr. Singh was asked about the criticism said to have been made by Mr. Chidambaram about export trade having been hit by the Finance Ministry's "disincentives." Dr. Singh said that Mr. Chidambaram, as a good Commerce Minister, was very much interested in stepping up exports.

(v) While doing away with the restrictive measures in the industrial policy, the Finance Minister said that in agriculture the primary role of the Government is to protect the interests of the small and marginal farmers who could not be left to the interplay of market forces. "They require active and purposeful intervention on the part of the State. We want to spend a lot more on social services so that the constitutional directive of universal education becomes a reality. That can happen only if the economy grows at a faster rate. This cannot be left to the market forces alone. We must restructure and refashion the instruments of economic policy."

(vi) The lingering scepticism among the investors in the developed countries in spite of the far-reaching measures taken so far cannot be wished away. "We have to persist in these endeavours and make them an irreversible process and that is the only way in which we can make them get over their scepticism."

Corporate Sector Urged To Help Improve Bangalore

92AS0290E Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English
30 Oct 91 p 8

[Text] The package recommended by the Rail India Techno-Economic Survey (RITES) to ease traffic congestion in Bangalore is welcome despite the limited parameters it has set for itself. The ineffectiveness of previous studies will also serve as a damper on popular enthusiasm regarding its potential. The heavy showers which have opened up wide cracks on many road surfaces have already served as reminders of the fate of earlier recommendations for comprehensive re-development of City roads and the urgent need to repair them alongside plugging water supply and sewerage leaks. Not much as been heard of the RS[rupees]100-crore plan for urban development with the help of the corporate sector either. For a City which by 2000 AD threatens to burst at the seams with a population of around 7 million, the piecemeal nature of the ameliorative measures that have been mooted—and the failure to implement them—to date have not addressed the basic problems posed by persistent influx and shrinking road space, mostly because they have not gone far enough. Countermeasures like satellite townships, for instance, are not being planned with necessary seriousness and the basic emphasis remains somewhat myopically restricted to immediate hardships. The result is likely to be the emergence of fresh ones by the time the new programmes mature. Nevertheless RITES' plan for a rail network by exploiting the five corridors around the City system could mark the beginning of a more effective mass transit facility. The suggestion to run local trains between Bangalore City Station and destinations on the outskirts is also worth mulling over. An intermediate ring road to encircle the City Centre is equally worthy of attention.

But ultimately the real predicament remains. Though public sector enterprises have sprung up in the suburbs

they have not proved effective in deflecting the demographic pull to the heart of the City. Planners will have to give more thought to devising greater attractions for fresh migrants to live and work in suburbs failing which they could be provided easier access through affordable and regular means of public transport. [sentence as published] As an initial step work on Ring Road needs to be expedited and mass rail transit facilities introduced, despite the expenses involved. The ingenuity with which the corporate sector was drawn in to contribute to a City which it has played no mean role in popularising could be repeated for funds.

INTUC Protests Policy on Public Sector

92AS0268A New Delhi *PATRIOT* in English
23 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] The Indian National Trade Union Congress [INTUC] is piqued with Finance Minister Manmohan Singh over the latter's stand on unviable public sector undertakings.

In a press release in New Delhi on Tuesday, it says several of its leaders and state units have taken a serious view of the Finance Minister's statement that uneconomical public sector units would be closed down.

INTUC's organising secretary N.M. Adyanthaya, who is also the president of the Karnataka unit, has referred to the Reserve Bank report which has put the blame on inefficient management in more than 60 percent cases. He cites the report further to point out that it was less than 2 percent units which turned unviable on account of labour troubles.

The statement quotes Mr. Adyanthaya having urged Mr. Singh to find out remedial measures of sick public sector units instead of thinking in terms of their closure.

The trade union leader has warned the government of joining hands with other trade union outfits to oppose the closure move. He is said to have taken exception to the Karnataka government's move to privatise KIMCO [expansion not given] and the Mysore chrome and tanning units.

Meanwhile, the All India Trade Union Congress of the CPI [Communist Party of India] announced that it would join the protest dharna and gherao of the Finance Minister for his statement.

It said that over 200,000 workers of public sector enterprises are already on the firing line as a result of the proposed closing down of more than fifty so-called sick public sector enterprises.

In his eagerness to appease the IMF-World Bank for getting some loan, the Finance Minister has shamelessly denigrated the public sector, its role and importance in the economic development of the country, it charged.

New Parallel Processing Computer Described

92AS0221A Madras *THE HINDU* in English
9 Oct 91 p 17

[Text] The National Aeronautical Laboratory [NAL] is ready with its third generation Flosolver, said to be the fastest parallel processing computer in the country. A Mark-III system is to be supplied shortly to the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore where it will be used for monsoon modelling.

The Flosolvers came to be developed to meet the demand for computing power for computational fluid dynamics (CFD) problems of NAL. CFD, as its name suggests, deals with computing gaseous and liquid flows. Run on powerful computers, CFD is increasingly used wherever the shape of structure—which decides the flow patterns around it—is critical. In the aerospace industry, it is extensively used as digitised wind tunnels for the aerodynamic styling of the aircraft body and wings, giving considerable savings in time and money. Since CFD is highly computation-intensive, the more powerful the computer, the quicker can the simulation be completed. Programs that took 45 hours on the Mark-II version can be run in just six hours on the Mark-III.

The Mark-III uses three Intel 1860 processors. The reduced instruction set computing (RISC) 1860 chips are the fastest commercially available processors on the market. With one 1860 acting as the host processor and the other two as slaves, the Flosolver can deliver sustained computing power of 15 million floating point operations per second (MFLOPS). By increasing the number of processors to five and adding more memory, NAL intends raising its rating to 25 MFLOPS sustained (400 MFLOPS peak) by the end of this year. The three-processor system is estimated to cost between Rs.[rupees]25 and 30 lakhs.

Each processor has at present 8 MB [megabytes] of memory available to it as well as high speed direct memory access. NAL is increasing this to 32 MB. The increased core memory would greatly reduce the need to write intermediate data (which can come to 150 MB or more in CFD problems) to disc and thus push up the throughput by over 25 percent, says Dr. R. Sunder of NAL. In addition, the number of processors is to be increased to five by the end of this year. The Flosolver should then be capable of sustaining 25 MFLOPS (with a peak of 400 MFLOPS).

Since the 1860 is only a high speed number-cruncher, communication between processors (which is essential in parallel processing systems) is carried out using a message passing coprocessor. The Multibus-II provides communication at 45 MB per second. The multibus's bandwidth is sufficient to take up to eight processors, says Dr. U.N. Sinha, also of NAL and the brain behind the Flosolvers. (The Flosolvers were developed on a shoestring budget by a team of just four assisted by students). Dr. Sinha hopes that in course of time the number of

processors can be increased to six and then to eight. With eight processors, the system should be capable of at least 50 MFLOPS sustained.

Unix and standard sequential compilers run on the host processor. The Concurrent Executive, written at NAL, provides the parallel processing system software, handling synchronisation of processors and exchange of data between them. Programs are written and compiled using the sequential compilers, with the parallel processing part being taken care of through calls to Concurrent Executive subroutines.

Writing parallel compilers would be a formidable and expensive task, points out Dr. Sinha, who adds that Indian expertise in writing compilers is extremely limited. This way, top-class compilers available off the shelf can be used and users need learn only the dozen or so parallel processing calls, he observes. (The advantage of using 1860, as opposed to, say, the transputer, is that compilers for most languages are readily available for it.)

NAL's system software also provides driver codes for direct disc read and writes, bypassing the Unix calls which were found to considerably slow down the system, says Dr. Sunder. This provision has improved disc access times several fold, he adds.

NAL has also provided a simple debugger. The breakpoints can only be set based on the line numbers, admits Dr. Sinha. The debugger does permit monitoring of all variable values.

NAL also intends providing graphics capability. A CFD problem can result in many megabytes of data which may not make much sense until it is displayed graphically. At present the only solution is to move the data produced by the Flosolver using computer cartridge or floppies to a separate graphic workstation. The NAL group is considering developing a display graphics program in C language for the purpose, says Dr. Sunder.

"Today the Flosolver is the fastest parallel processing system in the country," says Professor S.M. Deshpande of the Department of Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science. Professor Deshpande and his research students have extensively used the Flosolver for their CFD projects.

It takes very little time to learn parallel programming, says Mr. S.V. Raghuram Rao who is working for his doctorate under Dr. Deshpande. Moreover, once the serial code is ready, it can be parallelised in a short while with very little help from the NAL team, he adds. But Dr. Ravi Nanjundiah of the Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, who used the previous generation Flosolver for testing a monsoon model, is more cautious. A thorough understanding of the problem is essential for properly parallelising a program, he thinks.

The Centre for Atmospheric Sciences settled on the Flosolver to meet its computing needs as it was the most cost effective system in terms of rupees per megaflop,

says Dr. Sulochana Gadgil, Chairman of the Centre. The Flosolver will be extensively used by faculty members and students.

But the Flosolver may not be the answer to everybody's needs (nor to be fair to NAL, have they made that claim). As sceptics point out, its parallel architecture may be well suited to CFD problems. The Flosolver uses the domain decomposition technique whereby the spatial region is divided into as many domains as there are processors and each domain allotted to one processor. As such, the communication requirements between processors is limited. It was possible that for problems with greater communication needs, the Flosolver may slow down.

Tehri Dam Project: 'Long, Hard Look' Urged

92AS0290F Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English
30 Oct 91 p 8

[Article by Pravin Kumar: "Flying in the Face of Facts"]

[Text] The recent earthquake in the Garhwal region of Uttar Pradesh should provide the government an escape route out of the controversial Tehri Dam project.

The Tehri project, which involves the construction of a 260-metre high dam across the Bhagirathi river at Tehri, is located in one of the most earthquake-prone regions of the world.

Bigger Quake

The earthquake of October 20 could be the precursor of a bigger one: will this occur during the dam's expected life of 100 years and will the dam's design-strength stand up to it?

The site of the Tehri dam is just 15 kilometres from the boundary between the Indian and Eurasian continental plates, which are among the dozen-odd plates which make up the lithosphere or outer layer of the Earth's crust. Most earthquakes result from the jostling of these plates which float raft-like upon a somewhat viscous layer, the mantle.

Radioactive minerals in the mantle give off heat which sets up convection currents from the interior to the surface.

New material is added to the crustal plate at the mid-ocean ridges; at the deep ocean trenches, the plates get tucked below one another.

All this activity results in the crustal plates jostling or thrusting against one another. Tension builds up in the rocks of adjacent plates as they rub each other.

when the stress exceeds the friction that binds them together, the rocks breakup and assume new positions of equilibrium. In doing so, they distribute the pent-up stress to the surrounding areas.

Most earthquakes in the Himalayan region result from the friction between the Indian plate and the Eurasian plate. Sixty-five million years ago, the Indian plate collided against the Eurasian plate with the result that the Himalayan massif was thrown up.

The Indian plate is still moving into the Eurasian plate at the rate of 2.5 cm annually.

About 99 percent of earthquakes occur along the boundaries of the crustal plates, the oceanic ridges, transform faults and subduction zones. There are two major seismic belts worldwide—the circum-Pacific belt and the Alpine-Himalayan belt, within which falls the north-east region of India—one of the highly seismic regions of the world.

Earthquakes are classified as shallow if their foci lie at depths of 0 to 70 km intermediate if in the range 70 to 300 km and deep if they occur below 300 km. The world's earthquake activity is heavily biased in favour of shallow shocks, like the one in the Garhwal regions: these release about 75 percent of seismic energy, compared to only about 3 percent in the case of deep events. It is the shallow quakes that cause the most damage.

The site of the Tehri project is unfortunate because a section of the plate boundary that runs near it is part of a 700-km long 'seismic gap'—a region where there is a likelihood of built-up tension in the rocks due to the absence of large recent quakes. This heightens the probability of a major quake.

This seismic gap extends along the Himalayas from Kashmir, where an earthquake in 1905 measured 8.6 on the Richter scale, to Bihar which experienced a quake of magnitude 8.4 in 1934. The October 20 earthquake in the Garhwal region had an intensity of 6.2, but a U.S. seismology centre in Colorado (USA), gave its strength as 7.1. It is believed that this event has not yet released the pent-up stress in the region. Prof. Vinod K. Gaur, the noted geophysicist has opined that the 20 October earthquake may be "preparatory to a major earthquake of magnitude greater than 8."

Misapplied

Will the proposed Tehri dam stand up to a great earthquake? It has been designed for earthquakes of 7.2 magnitude. In April 1980, an expert committee set up by the government of India concluded, using the formula of an American seismologist, James Brune, that the peak ground acceleration in the Tehri region would measure 0.446 g (g is the rate of acceleration due to gravity).

This was within the design specification of 0.5 g.

Mr. Brune later complained that his formula had been misapplied. It had been based on a site in California, where the soft sedimentary rocks would weaken the shock waves passing through them. In the hard rocks of the Tehri region, this attenuation would be much less, so

the quake would be stronger than assumed while travelling from the plate boundary to Tehri. Mr. Brune also warned that the large Mahr fault which probably runs directly beneath Tehri might be connected to the main plate boundary and could bring the force of a large quake closer to the dam.

Warning

In a letter forwarded by Prof. Gaur, a member of the expert committee, to the Ministry of Mines, Mr. Brune warned against building a dam incapable of withstanding a peak ground acceleration of at least 1 g—which is twice that allowed in the current design. After a visit to the dam site in December 1990 Mr. Brune affirmed this view.

Meanwhile the government had referred to the question to another 'expert' Mr. Jai Krishna, a former vice-chancellor of Roorkee University, who had appeared on behalf of the government in the case filed by the Tehri Dam Virodh Sangharsh Samiti. Mr. Jai Krishna rubber-stamped the expert committee's decision in September 1990.

When Ms. Maneka Gandhi, Environment Minister in the V.P. Singh Government attempted to scrutinise the decisions rigorously, she was stripped of most subjects in her portfolio. The Environment Ministry gave conditional clearance, but without any resolution of the issues, the government again started work on the project last September.

There has been too little scientific scrutiny of the Tehri project. When the Russians came into the picture in 1986 with offers of technical and financial help, their engineers wanted the design of the dam to be altered to provide for the 8.0 to 9.0 points seismicity of the region, and for a base 400 metres wider than the intended 1,100 metres. This could be done only marginally.

Apart from seismicity, there would be landslips along the 80 km stretch of river valleys to be flooded by the dam waters. The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology states that the rocks of the hills are fragile. The shales could absorb water from the reservoir, causing them to slide down into the reservoir under the pull of gravity.

A study by the Geological Survey of India had also warned that slips would increase because of the erosion caused by the constant rising and falling of the water level in the reservoir. A major slip could push a tidal wave over the top of the dam.

In 1963, a landslide crashed into the reservoir behind the Vaoint Dam in Italy, causing a huge wave to surge over the dam and into the valley below, killing 2,000 people.

A basic prerequisite for a scientific study of a subject is data. This has been sadly lacking in the case of the Tehri project. There is little data on the amount of snowfall in the headwaters of the Bhagirathi, feeding the glacier from which the river flows.

Government statistics which put the life of the reservoir at 100 years ignore the 'bed-load'—the rocks and other debris that roll along the river bed without getting suspended in the water. In his letter appended to the final report of the expert committee, Mr. Sunil Roy, chairman of the expert committee, complained about the government's failure to institute seismological research recommended by his committee in 1980.

Writing in *THE ECOLOGIST JOURNAL*, Mr. Fred Pearce says: "Scientific investigation into seismic risks is the very thing that the government has been most reluctant to fund... This may have been a deliberate tactic."

The project was cleared by the Planning Commission in 1972 for completion in ten years at a cost of Rs.[rupees]197 crore. According to a report of the comptroller and auditor-general, the price tag last year had gone up to Rs. 1,345 crore without any change in the power benefits but with a reduction of the irrigation targets by more than one half.

Alternative

Dr. Jayant Bandyopadhyay, the well-known mountain ecologist, maintains that a run-of-the-hough [as published] it would generate only 325 MW [megawatts] power, as against 2,000 MW by the Tehri dam, would cost only Rs. 450 crore. Run-of-the-river schemes would last indefinitely, as against the 100-year life (or less) of the dam. He also points out that, though the dam has been described as a developmental project, it will mainly benefit the urban industrial economy.

The history of the Tehri project has been one of obfuscation and flying in the face of facts. The recent Garhwal earthquake should stimulate a long hard look at the project.

Article Views Government Paper on Unviable PSUs

92AS0294D Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English 19 Nov 91 p 14

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Nov (PTI)—The Government is preparing "status papers" separately on the loss-making public sector undertakings and the sick coal mines, Coal Minister P.A. Sangma, said here today.

The status paper would be prepared within 10 days in accordance with the decision taken on Sunday by the trade union leaders which was presided by Mr. Sangma, who is also holding the additional charge of Ministry of Labour.

Briefing newsmen here, Mr. Sangma said that the "status papers" would be placed before the tripartite committee which was expected to meet here in the middle of next month.

The 26-member committee headed by him was constituted last week to study the implications of the impact of

the changes in the industrial policy on the labour and other related matters, Mr. Sangma said.

The committee comprising 10 representatives each from employees and employers and five from the Government would go into the "status papers" and submit its recommendations to the Government, Mr. Sangma said.

Altogether 98 of the total 244 Central public undertakings in the country are in the red and they suffered an accumulated loss of Rs.[rupees]1,959 crore in 1989-90 he said.

Of the loss-making units, as many as 50 were "chronically sick," he said and added that the Government's total investment in the 244 enterprises stood at Rs. 99,315 crore as on 31 March 1990.

As many as 131 undertakings with 85 percent capital investment were making profits and the accumulated total profit in 1989-90 was Rs. 5,741 crore, Mr. Sangma said.

While the "status paper" relating to the losing public sector undertakings will be prepared by the Department of Public Enterprises, the "status paper" on coal by the Coal Department, Mr. Sangma said.

Replying to questions, Mr. Sangma said that the "status papers" would provide factual details with regard to the undertakings and the coal mines which had been in the red.

Asked how long the tripartite committee would take to submit its recommendations, Mr. Sangma said that it depended on the committee as to how fast it worked.

The union leaders expressed apprehensions at the meeting about the government's new exit policy, privatisation and closure of sick public sector undertakings and entry of multi-nationals, he said.

Asked about the call given by them for strike issue but he had appealed to them to withdraw their call in view of the prime minister's clarification that the changes would not lead to any human distress and that his government was not anti-labour.

Government Firm

The Minister of State for Industries, Prof. P.J. Kurien today did not rule out the possibility of closure of chronically sick public sector units (PSUs) but said it would be done after exploring all avenues to revive them.

Prof. Kurien told a news conference here that the Government had already prepared a short list of such PSUs and that they would be referred to the Board for Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) after the Sick Industrial Undertakings Special Provision Act was amended in the current session of Parliament to include PSUs as well.

He said at the consultative committee meeting attached to Industry Ministry, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha

Rao had made it clear that any decision in this regard would be through "consensus."

This sets aside conflicting reports closure of patently unviable sick PSUs.

Prof. Kurien quoted Mr. Narasimha Rao as saying that the interest of workers would not be affected as a result of the changed industrial policy.

He said there need not be any apprehension on this score and that the Government would ensure that there was no human distress as a result of the new industrial policy.

He said the BIFR would examine how best the sick PSUs could be revived and rehabilitated.

He said the credit squeeze was affecting the industrial production and that Finance Minister Manmohan Singh had assured him that very soon the Government would come out with a package to tackle this problem.

He said members at the consultative meeting were appreciative of the economic measures taken by the Government.

Leniency in Regulation for Nonresidents Questioned

92AS0290D Bangalore DECCAN HERALD in English 30 Oct 91 p 8

[Text] Going by the relaxation of norms for investment by non-resident Indians (NRIs), it appears that for the government a larger inflow of foreign exchange has become an end in itself. The NRIs have always demanded more concessions than they have been given. Since the industrial policy announced in July permitted foreign companies to acquire more than 50 percent of equity in high-priority industries, the earlier regulations which put a 40 percent ceiling on investment by NRIs naturally had to be relaxed. But by allowing 100 percent ownership by both individual NRIs and overseas corporate bodies (OCBs) predominantly owned by NRIs, the government has gone much further. The first question that will be asked by multinational companies is why there should be one set of liberal regulations for NRIs and their OCBs and a relatively more stringent set of norms for them. Another question, one that resident Indians will ask, is whether concern for one's homeland should be rewarded with a premium of a special set of liberalised norms. In any case, the NRI who is genuinely interested in investment is unlikely to be swayed solely by the promise of complete control. What is as much important is the easing of other Central and State Government regulations. The new norms carry with them similar regulations as in the new industrial policy, on financing of import of earnings. As the recent experience of multinationals granted approval by the high-powered Foreign Investment Promotion Board shows, this set of regulations constitutes a deterrent which is not offset by the advantage of majority control. Further, the special permission that will now be granted to NRIs for

100 per cent ownership of hotels and high-quality and expensive hospitals is indicative of the NRIs' areas of interest. Investment in such sectors may bring foreign exchange but they are certainly not high on the country's priorities at present.

If the new investment norms by themselves attract a large inflow of NRI funds, the resources that will be brought in will be essentially black money that is sought to be legalised. The India Development Boards and the gift scheme for NRIs, with their "no-questions-asked" rules, are aimed at attracting, through NRI fronts, black money that is stashed abroad by resident Indians. The new norms go a step further in that direction. Laundered money can now be used to establish and control new enterprises. The proof of success will in any case be in the scale of NRI investments that will result from the liberalised norms. There will be a lot to answer for if there is no substantial set-up in NRI inflows and if what does come in is not directed towards sectors of importance to the economy.

Total Outlay for Third Plan Announced

92AS0256A Calcutta THE HINDU in English 27 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Bombay, 26 October: The Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee today announced that the total outlay for the Eighth Five Year Plan would be Rs (rupees) 1,000 crores at the 1991-92 price level, reports PTI.

Addressing a Press conference after a discussion with the Maharashtra Chief Minister, Mr. Sudhakarrao Naik, on the State's proposals for the Eighth Plan and the Annual Plan for 1992-93 at Mantralaya here, Mr. Mukherjee said the rate of investment would be 23 percent per year and the annual rate of saving 15.6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product. The balance of 1.4 percent Current Account Deficit would be met by external borrowings, he added.

He said the public sector outlay would be Rs 34,000 crores, current outlay Rs 13,000 crores and private sector outlay Rs 39,000 crores.

The State Governments have to play bigger role in this Plan, he said, adding that though the Centre approved it, the National Development Council has to give final approval.

The Planning Commission has set a target of generating 100 million jobs during the next 10 years with the active support of the private and public sector, according to Mr. Mukherjee.

Addressing a seminar on "role of the State in a market-friendly approach to economic development" organized by Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today, he said during the Eighth Plan emphasis would be laid on areas such as power, transportation, communication, agriculture and human resources development.

IRAN

Regime Reportedly Arrests Opposition Members

92P40078A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
4 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Text] Paris, Tehran AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureaus—Informed Iranian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Iranian security forces carried out an arrest campaign after police raids in Tehran and 13 other cities on houses of the opposition. They charged 379 persons, including 19 women, with planning to overthrow the ruling regime.

The sources indicated that among those who were arrested were an undetermined number of former army, air force, navy, and police officers. It is believed that they were supporters of the return of the Pahlavi regime that was overthrown by the Iranian revolution in 1979.

The sources mentioned that no less than 50 of the arrested individuals belonged to the banned Mojahedin-e Khalq movement, whose leadership took Baghdad as its headquarters. This is the first time in nearly four years that a large number of the movement's adherents have been arrested. A majority of those included in the recent arrest campaign belong to rightist and moderate organizations that demand a return to the 1906 Constitution and an end to the regime of the ayatollahs.

Official sources said yesterday that they "had seized a tremendous number of sensitive documents," some of which disclosed the complicity of no fewer than three foreign powers in supplying the opposition groups involved with money and equipment. The sources added that "the powers implicated consisted of two major states and one regional state" but refused to divulge their names.

The sources promised that "a communique will soon be issued by the senior authorities" in Tehran on this matter.

Officials charged the individuals who were arrested with organizing a number of demonstrations this year in Tehran and the provincial capitals. In September, Tehran witnessed unrest for three days on the heels of the regime's decision to raise communications charges. Official sources say that the opposition capitalized on the charges issue "to instigate acts of violence by the people."

As a result of the unrest, the government was forced to abandon the idea of raising the communications charges.

Attacks on gas stations and supply centers of the revolutionary guard followed the unrest, and official sources blamed these attacks on individuals from the Mojahedin-e Khalq movement and said that they also were responsible for fires in the markets of Tehran and a number of regional capitals. The fires killed 25 people and caused damage to property valued at billions of dollars.

The officials also charged the opposition with responsibility for a series of clashes that broke out in September in the streets of Zabkhan in western Tehran. Official

sources in Tehran say that the Mojahedin-e Khalq, which is working to overthrow the government by means of armed insurrection, has reached "a tacit understanding" with the opposition groups supporting the Pahlavi regime. According to this understanding, the Pahlavi supporters are charged with mobilizing the people and organizing demonstrations concentrating on purely economic and social questions. As soon as the people go out to the streets, the Mojahedin-e Khalq escalates the intensity of the demonstrations by setting fires or initiating armed attacks.

According to opposition sources, some of the officers that were arrested participated in smuggling a television broadcasting installation into Iran used to broadcast unlicensed television programs into Tehran and at least two other major cities. The secret television station's programs usually last less than 10 minutes and consist of videotaped messages from Prince Reza, the Shah's oldest son, who claims the Iranian crown. It was not clear whether the authorities had gotten their hands on the broadcasting equipment.

Analysts consider the recent wave of arrests to be "a sign that the Iranian intelligence agencies have penetrated the ranks of the opposition parties."

Spokesmen for the Mojahedin-e Khalq and supporters of the Pahlavi regime yesterday denied that the two movements' supporters inside Iran had agreed to cooperate against the regime.

Observers of the situation in Iran describe the recent wave of arrests as an indication of self-confidence on the part of the regime of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The arrests came immediately after a visit to Tehran by the UN special envoy, Galindo Pohl, charged with investigating human rights in Iran.

The government, by carrying out these arrests and announcing them, wants to deny, in effect, the reports that it has submitted to UN pressures regarding human rights by freeing a number of political prisoners.

It is also possible to explain the arrests by saying that they are precautionary measures by the government to prevent the Pahlavi regime followers from plunging into the upcoming parliamentary elections under various subterfuges. The Mojahedin-e Khalq has stated that it will boycott the elections and will attempt, however possible, to prevent their being carried out.

Transport Firm Forms Joint Venture With Brazil

92SM0020Z Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 26 Sep 91 p 19

[Article by Edson Alvares da Costa]

[Text] Sao Paulo—Irga Lupercio Torres, Inc.—rated as one of Brazil's largest companies specializing in the transport of superheavy freight—has just formed a joint venture with the Iranian company Rakeb International

Company, Ltd. The deal is the fruit of Minister of Infrastructure Joao Santana's recent trip to Iran. Marcus Torres, managing director of the Irga group and one of the members of the Brazilian trade delegation that accompanied Santana on his trip, told this newspaper yesterday that Irga will transfer technology and supply special equipment for the transport of superheavy freight for Iran.

"The investment will basically consist of the transfer of this equipment, which is idle today in Brazil," Torres stated. The equipment consists of the so-called "axle lines" [linhas de eixo] and "flatbeds" [pranchas], which replace the trucks that carry normal freight. The "axle lines" and "flatbeds"—with as many as four axles and eight tires per axle—are hitched to the tractor in the number needed, which depends on the weight and dimensions of the freight.

If necessary, Irga will also take trucks to Iran. Torres says, however, that the company is more likely to purchase them in Iran, where "prices are favorable."

With a fleet of 150 tractors that is only slightly more than one year old on the average, Irga has 440 "axle lines" on hand—almost one-third of this type of equipment in Brazil. "We will have up to one-half of this number available when the Iranian market is well positioned," said Torres, who estimates that more than 80 percent of this equipment in Brazil is idle. "And we are not going to have a reactivation of the superheavy transportation sector here any time soon," he added.

"In order for the deal to go forward successfully," Torres said, "the prospects for Iran's Reconstruction Plan will have to take concrete form." The goal of the Reconstruction Plan is to enable Iran to recover from its eight years of war with Iraq, with a total investment of \$120 billion over a five-year period. "But the prospects are good," Torres declared, adding that the opportunities for Brazilian companies to bid successfully on projects in Iran are also good.

One of the potential business partners for Irga in Iran is the Andrade Gutierrez company, which is bidding on the project for construction of the Karun III hydroelectric plant, among other projects. "We would be responsible for the transport of cement and equipment from the port to the project site," he explained.

Torres acknowledges that "Brazil-Iran trade is surrounded by a number of uncertainties that reflect the Iranian way of doing business," but declares that he has discovered a good "vein of ore" for his group. "Nobody in Brazil engages in this type of business," he said. Torres was the only entrepreneur from the transportation sector who traveled with Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana to Iran.

Torres is monitoring the bidding process on other projects for which he also hopes to provide transportation services. As examples he cited the Teheran subway, which has a proposal from the Brazilian General Electric

company to supply 50 100-ton locomotives; seven sugar and alcohol refineries, which may be built by the Dedini/Zanini consortium; the reconstruction and modernization of the oil refineries; and irrigation projects for the expansion of Iran's agricultural area, among others.

Five Companies

The Irga group—with an annual revenue of \$35 million—consists of five companies. In addition to Irga Lupericio Torres, there is the Grancarga Maritima [Maritime Heavy Cargo] company, based in Sao Paulo, which transports heavy cargo along the Brazilian coast with its own medium-capacity, "ro-ro" [roll on-roll off] ship the "Lady Sophie" and one other ship chartered for container transport on the Santos-Manaus route.

There is also the Grancarga Intermodal company, based in Manaus, which engages in the river transport of containers using five rafts and five tugboats on the Manaus-Porto Velho-Manaus route, with two departures weekly from the two termini. "We began three years ago," Torres declares, "and we are the only company in Brazil in the business of transporting containers by river."

There is also Irga Industrial, which manufactures—in Pirituba, Sao Paulo State—special transportation equipment such as trucks with hydropneumatic suspension, cranes, and special hydraulic jacks. And there is the Santa Maria Agricultural and Livestock Company Ltd., with 16,000 hectares of land in Rondonia devoted to cattle raising.

In recent times, as the transportation of superheavy freight slacked off with the completion of large-scale projects (Itaipu, for example), Irga has oriented its activities toward other areas in the "special cargo" sector, in order to maintain its sales volume. It transports medium-weight cargoes of up to 40 tons, such as road-building parts and machinery.

Torres says that in order to maintain sales volume, Irga has had to increase its fleet. He explains that it requires as many as five medium-sized trucks to earn as much as you can earn from one truck designed for superheavy freight.

Renegotiated Oil Contract With Brazil Discussed

92SM0114Z, Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 12 Nov 91 p 15

[Article by Rio correspondent Fatima Belchior]

[Text] The most recent negotiations between Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) resulted in a gain for the Brazilian state petroleum corporation. On all the product imported from Iran—current volume 162,000 barrels a day—Petrobras will have 40 days from the date of the issuance of the document attesting to delivery at the point of origin in which to make payment. Over a

six-month period this will mean a savings to Petrobras of about \$1.4 million, or \$0.05 per barrel.

These figures were made available to this newspaper yesterday by Petrobras's director of marketing, Mauricio Alvarenga, who negotiated with the Iranians in early October concerning the new basis for the petroleum purchase contract with NIOC. Alvarenga returned last weekend from a trip to Iran, on which he accompanied a Brazilian delegation from Itamaraty and business groups. Petroleum was not a topic during those meetings.

Until last October, when the contract between Brazil and Iran was renegotiated, the 40-day payment period had been valid only for quantities purchased in excess of the old contract, which was for 100,000 barrels a day. Since this additional amount is 80,000 barrels a day, plus or minus 10 percent of the overall amount, Petrobras had been able to get 62,000 barrels a day under the 40-day payment rule. But the most recent negotiations (in October) extended the payment period from 30 to 40 days for the 100,000 barrels per day, too. In general, oil suppliers offer a 30-day payment period, said Alvarenga. The contract with the Iranians will be valid from 1 October 1991 to 30 March 1992.

Suppliers

Iran is Brazil's leading supplier of oil. It is followed by Saudi Arabia, which sells 120,000 barrels a day to Petrobras, and by Venezuela, Qatar, and China. The volumes sold by the last three were not revealed by the marketing director, as they are considered to be trade secrets. Petrobras is renegotiating its contract with China and has bought oil from Abu Dhabi without a contract.

Alvarenga acknowledged the possibility that Brazil may resume imports of petroleum from Kuwait at the same level as it purchased before that country was invaded by Iraq—140,000 barrels a day. Obviously, as he pointed out, the volume will depend on negotiations (price and terms), but Petrobras is interested in diversifying its list of suppliers. Kuwait has good petroleum and sells it at market prices. Expectations are that it will resume sales at the end of 1992.

Expenses

Petrobras will close out the year with gross expenses of \$3.2 billion on petroleum imports. Last year, its expenses reached \$4.3 billion (FOB [freight on board]), having been greatly affected by the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait that boosted the price of oil to \$40 a barrel.

Over a period of about 70 days since August, oil prices have risen by an average of about \$2.70 to \$3 per barrel. There are several reasons for this, according to Alvarenga: the absence of Iraq and Kuwait from the seller market; reduction of Soviet production and exports; the arrival of winter in the northern hemisphere; and the reduction of 500,000 barrels a day in the quotas of the OPEC member nations. He said that Petrobras had

already anticipated this possible reaction by the market and so has not yet had to revise its figures on 1991 expenditures.

Changes in Brazilian Middle East Policy Viewed

92SM0114Y Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL
in Portuguese 13 Nov 91 pp 1, 3

[Article by Brasilia correspondent Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] The Collor administration's policy toward the Middle East has three objectives: guarantee the country's source of petroleum; open up export markets, especially for services; and please the Arab and Jewish communities in Brazil—in which the Lebanese alone number two million, and there are 250,000 Jews.

Foreign policy toward the region has had two watershed moments: the 1973 petroleum shock, which caused Brazil to move closer to the Gulf nations; and the crisis provoked last August by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, which led Brazil to replace Baghdad with Teheran as the center of attention in the region after some hesitation by Brazilian diplomats, who resisted loosening the ties with Brazil's preferred partner in the region.

Brazil's approach to Iran, which began last November with the trip by then-Minister of the Infrastructure Ozires Silva to negotiate increases in petroleum purchases in exchange for Brazilian participation in major projects to rebuild that country, worries the United States and Israel because of the extremist nature of the regime of the ayatollahs.

"The attempt to move closer to Iran is legitimate, but we are afraid of the fundamentalist and fanatic nature of Iranian policy," Israeli diplomatic sources told this newspaper. This concern was most recently rekindled by the convocation of an "anti-Madrid peace conference" at which it was declared that Islam's objective is the destruction of Israel.

The Shamir administration fears that Iran is receiving nuclear cooperation in order to beef up its arsenal. "Iran's posture, like that still assumed by Iraq, alarms even the Arab countries because Iran is playing to win regional hegemony. Its extremism is part of a game to gain the support of radical Islamic elements in the Middle East and elsewhere," Israeli diplomats commented.

They hope that the relationship between Brazil and Iran does not expand beyond the trade area.

Itamaraty is discussing only the trade and economic aspects of its relations with the Iranian government. This became clear during last week's visit by Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek to Teheran. There, he defended the interests of Brazilian companies, such as construction contractor Andrade Gutierrez, the Zanini-Dedini consortium, Mafersa, and the firms that specialize in building low-cost housing.

Brazilian diplomats say Brazil is being cautious in its dealings with Iran but that the sale of non-nuclear armaments has not been ruled out.

There has been another change in foreign policy, not so much imposed by events like the Gulf crisis as brought about by President Collor's desire to make Brazil part of the First World. Even before he took office, the president had signalled the Jewish community in the United States that this country would support cancellation of U.N. Resolution 3,379 of 1975, which calls Zionism a kind of racism.

Collor once again emphasized that concern this year in a speech to the General Assembly. When he read his speech at the opening ceremonies of the United Nations, the Brazilian decision appeared to have been stated timidly, diplomatic sources in the Middle East noted. The text said that Brazil opposes labels but avoided saying that Brazil would not vote this time the same way it voted in 1975, since it considers that Zionism is not comparable to racism.

"That was consistent with a certain timidity on the part of Itamaraty, which is reluctant to state things clearly, something the diplomats themselves sometimes call 'staying on the fence,'" a ministry source commented.

At any rate, Itamaraty confirms that Brazil will vote against Resolution No. 3,379, which is likely to come up for a vote by the time the General Assembly adjourns in December.

This change in position was applauded by Israel because it made the bilateral relationship more balanced than under previous administrations. Especially under the military governments, Brazil used to condemn the occupation of the Palestinian territories by supporting U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 but never took the trouble to make the dialogue less cold and distant.

As became clear during Rezek's trip to Cairo last week, Brazil still considers Israel's acquisition of new territories by force to be inadmissible, but at the same time maintains that it will vote against the Zionist vote at the United Nations.

Differences Between Iran and Iraq

"Iran will not be another Iraq," says an Itamaraty source, comparing the differences between Brazil's old relationship with Iraq and its current dealings with Teheran. In the first place, the "countertrade" mode is no longer being used. The term refers to compensated trade in which petroleum is the product that drives the operation. During the era of exchanges with the Iraqis, Banco do Brasil and Petrobras sustained losses in order to ensure that Brazilian firms made profits. Furthermore, that scheme fostered corruption in the now-extinct Interbras. Today, trade with Iran proceeds on the basis of payment for oil within 40 days and immediate payment for Brazilian products, thanks to a side letter [preceding two words in English] signed last July by the

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and Petrobras. There have been problems in compliance with the terms of the side letter, but Rezek's mission was able to get around the difficulties.

Another difference, the diplomats explained, is that in their dealings with Iran the Brazilian firms are unwilling to send a large contingent of Brazilian workers into Iranian territory. In writing the contracts, they pay attention to the freedom of their personnel to come and go. They also provide for training Iranian manpower in Brazil, for later assignment to the projects underway in that country.

Finally, another distinction being made is that the government is cautious and does not intend to provide nuclear technology to Iran.

Foreign Policy Concerns

In Teheran, Rezek tried to persuade the Iranian government to hire Brazilian companies to execute a part of the reconstruction program that is worth \$120 billion over a five-year period. Brazil hopes to derive an advantage from its imports of 162,000 barrels of oil a day.

In Cairo, the minister signed a joint communique with his counterpart Amre Moussa that specifies, more emphatically than Itamaraty had previously, the need for Israel to return the territories to the Palestinians in exchange for peace and an end to the Arab boycott against Israel.

That has always been the policy advocated by Brazil, but it was pursued more timidly. The fact that U.S. President George Bush, Israel's chief ally, has succeeded in suspending a \$10 billion loan to the Shamir government, despite the Jewish lobby [preceding word in English] and the pressure from the Senate, in order to force it to comply with Resolutions 242 and 338, has left Brazilian diplomacy even freer to ask, in unison with the Egyptians, for "land for peace" [preceding three words in English].

Israeli diplomatic sources told this newspaper that relations between the two countries are improving and moving toward a "gradually positive status." Even so, it has been 20 years since Brazil has sent a high-level representative to Israel, while Labor Party leader Shimon Peres was here in 1987. Israel Defense Minister Moshe Arens is scheduled to visit Brazil, but not at the invitation of Itamaraty.

At any rate, when it backed the Madrid conference, Brazil sensed more flexibility on the part of Israel, which at least agreed to sit down at the table to negotiate with Jordan, the Palestinians, and Syria.

As regards Egypt, the first Arab country to be included on the foreign minister's itinerary, Brazil wanted to signal the importance it attaches to a dialogue with Cairo. Egypt is a poor country, its oil has a high sulfur content that is not of interest to Brazil, but it plays a key role as a moderator in that region. After 1977, when it signed the Camp David accords with Israel, Egypt was shunned by its Arab partners.

Last year, as proof that it is still trustworthy, Cairo reassumed its role as the headquarters of the Arab League, which had been transferred from Tunis. Egypt's role is to defend Arab policies in a moderate way. In exchange, it hopes to receive financial backing from the wealthy partners such as the Emirates. Brasilia and Abu Dhabi are negotiating a triangular operation by which Egypt would receive Brazilian technology in the area of tourism, paid for by the Emirates.

Dubayy Firm Supplying Technology for Iranian Smelter

NC2111154491 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT
21 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 21 (AFP)—Dubayy Aluminium (DUBAL) will supply technology to a planned Iranian smelter under an agreement to be signed this week, company officials announced Thursday.

They said the agreement would be signed in Dubayy on Sunday with Iranian Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi.

Three firms from Britain, Germany and Switzerland will build the Iranian smelter in the southern port of Bandar-e 'Abbas. The cost of the project, one of the largest smelters in the Gulf, has not been revealed.

DUBAL, a state-owned firm that produces nearly 160,000 tonnes of aluminium per year, will also participate in the construction and management of the smelter and the training of Iranian staff.

Ministry of the Interior Must Approve Marriages to Foreigners

92AS0162C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Oct 91 p 2

[Text] The special civil courts may not hear cases for divorce, child support and other matters from women whose marriages were made illegally and unofficially, especially with foreigners.

In announcing this, Hojjat ol-Eslam Malekazhdar-Sharifi, chief of the special civil courts warned Iranian families to avoid strenuously any unofficial and illegal marriages with foreigners.

In an interview with the IRNA, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sharifi said: A problem we have observed in recent years is the marriage of Iranian girls to foreigners. These marriages, mostly with immigrants and Iraqi and Afghan refugees, mostly concluded unofficially and illegally and not even

recorded in the official registries, have led to a great many complicated problems for the families.

He added: Recently we have seen many people bringing cases to the special civil courts where Iranian women have married an Iraqi or an Afghan, a Bangladeshi, an Indian or a Pakistani. Then after a period of time that foreigner goes back to his country and the Iranian woman comes to court to ask for a divorce, alimony, or child support.

He said: All of these are breach of contract cases, and the contract must be official in the first place before it can be considered in these courts.

He said: Most of the illegal and unofficial marriages take place due to the families' ignorance of the consequences of marriages of this type. Based on beliefs such as 'we are all Muslim and belong to the same religion,' they easily submit to unofficial marriages, yet later they have problems with the national laws and regulations.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sharifi said: The nation's civil law has defined marriage, and according to Article 1060 of the Civil Code, any Iranian woman who wishes to marry a foreigner must get special permission from the government, and the granting of this authorization has been delegated to the Ministry of the Interior. There is a set of guidelines on this matter, and its enforcement guarantees the soundness of marriages of this kind.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sharifi asked the people not to consider themselves separate from the law, and if there is a problem with their marriages, they should solve it by referring to competent authorities.

He emphatically advised families contemplating marriage with a foreigner to report to the Ministry of the Interior, to get the competence of that foreigner certified, and to register their marriage legally and officially so that in the event of problems after the marriage the special civil courts will be able to take steps to protect the rights of these ladies. Otherwise, families will have to endure the many problems that could arise from these marriages.

Northern Tehran Security Zone Commander Details Seizures

92WD0061M Tehran RESALAT in Persian
1 Oct 91 p 14

[Text] Social Department—With their alertness and perseverance, elements of Northern Tehran Security Zone Precinct Four have identified and arrested a gang of 13 people responsible for the procurement and distribution of 204 kg of opium, and have confiscated in the process six passenger automobiles, a bus, and more than 6 million rials cash.

Brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi, commander of the Northern Tehran Security Zone, gave a press conference yesterday morning in which he announced this. In discussing how the gang members were captured, he added: The first stages of identifying the gang began when forces of

Precinct Four became suspicious of a passenger bus while patrolling Khorramshahr Street. During a search they took 2.8 kg of opium from the driver. Meanwhile two passengers tried to flee, and along with the bus driver were detained by the security forces and taken to the central station.

Continuing, he added: At first the detainees tried to gain the cooperation of the patrolling officers by tempting them with an offer of 104 grams of gold, but with the alertness and concern of the region's dutiful officers, this was added to the case file as evidence.

He also said: With the arrest of two of the gang's members, an extensive investigation began to identify and arrest the gang's other members and also to locate the centers for procuring and distributing the narcotics. Within an hour two of those who had fled were recognized at a residential home and arrested. After the extent of the gang's activities hauling hundreds of kilograms of narcotics and distributing it over the city of Tehran was determined, with the cooperation of judicial officials and obtaining a warrant, the homes of the gang members as given in addresses taken from those arrested were searched.

Continuing his comments, the commander of the Northern Tehran Security Zone discussed the gang's center of operations. He said: During the search of a house of Shahrudi Street done by the Regional Narcotics Distribution Force, more than 204 kg of opium packed to be waterproof were obtained. In this connection the owner of the house and his wife were arrested and taken to prison on charges of cooperation and participation.

Brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi discussed the nature of the gang's activities and how it distributed and spread the narcotics. He said: These people took shipments of narcotics from Kerman to Tehran after skillfully stashing them in the air conditioners of buses and trucks and gathered them in the aforementioned house, so that their known colleagues would offer to buy the various substances in accordance to their desirability and quality and then sell them by the kilogram.

Continuing, brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi said that the driver of the bus received 200,000 rials in wages for every kilogram of narcotics. He added: One of the best ways of encouraging some bus drivers to cooperate with corrupt elements and smugglers of opiates is the high fees paid to them by the gang members.

Continuing, the commander of the Northern Tehran Security Zone discussed the confessions of the gang members to transporting and distributing more than 300 kg of opium in the city of Tehran. He noted: The cases of the accused are still being investigated, and details on a number of other defendants named in the case in various cities are being sought.

Continuing, he discussed the arrest of seven individuals in Tehran involved in the distribution of narcotics. He said: In view of the importance of reports received from

the people and conducting the necessary investigations concerning the demand of the hezbollah public for a relentless campaign against the merchants of death, it was learned that a 50-year-old individual was distributing narcotics in Tehran's Emam Hoseyn Square. In the same connection, regional security forces entered into phony transactions with him, in various stages purchased 7.5 kg of opium from him, and at the critical time arrested him along with six other people.

In subsequent investigations it was determined that despite his great wealth and property, including 10 stores each valued at 100 million rials and 20 residential units in the Afsariyeh area, he was involved in the distribution of opiates among the youth and the capital of the revolution.

Continuing his talk before a group of news reporters, brother Mas'ud Kiyumarsi discussed recent activities in the North Tehran Security Forces District in the arrest of evil persons and trouble makers. He said: In view of the reopening of the schools and the need for a persistent campaign against trouble makers and insurgents, since the first of the month of Mehr this year (23 September) 554 people have been arrested and turned over to the judicial authorities in connection with disturbing the public order. Likewise, since the implementation of the Security Forces Consolidation Law, 358 kg of narcotics, 340 stolen automobiles and 60 motorcycles along with stolen assets valued at about 235.197 million rials have been found and confiscated, and 777 thieves have been arrested and turned over to the judicial authorities in this connection.

In conclusion, he thanked and praised the personnel of the precincts in the Northern Tehran Security Zone for their work. Addressing all boutique and clothing store owners, he said: Henceforth, when the sale of tawdry clothing and accessories for the purpose of discrediting the sacred image of the government of the Islamic Republic is observed, the justification of the owner not knowing about it will not be accepted, and they will be dealt with harshly.

West Tehran Security Zone Commander Appointed

92AS0129E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] By order of Brigadier General Commander Abdollah 'Oqaba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Security Forces, Colonel 'Ali 'Olia and Colonel Guard Tarvand were appointed commander and second commander of Western Greater Tehran.

In announcing this, the Public Relations Office of the Greater Tehran Security Forces added: Those residing in West Tehran may report any complaints, criticism or proposals pertaining to the security forces by calling that region's command office at the number 900341.

Mahan Lieutenant Governor Appointed

92P400614 Tehran JOMHUR-YE ESLAMI in Persian 30 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Mahan—JOMHUR-YE ESLAMI correspondent. During a ceremony attended by Mr. Panj'alizadeh, the governor of Kerman, Mr. Vala'zadeh was introduced as the new lieutenant governor of Mahan. Also at this ceremony, Mr. Vala'zadeh, the previous lieutenant governor was thanked for his efforts.

Commentary Urges Actively Pursuing National Interests

92AS0132D Tehran AYYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Big powers led by the United States are after creating conditions whereby to put various pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran to compel her to retreat from the uncompromising principles of her foreign policy.

Among such pressures one may refer to: The German government's illogical attitude in barring Iranian publishers from the Frankfurt International Book Fair, the change in attitude of the BBC, VOA and other western mass media towards Iran, the extensive efforts by the United States for convening a Middle East peace conference, the signing of the U.S.-Kuwait security pact and murmurs about inking of similar pacts with the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and Bahrain, widespread military movements by the United States in Saudi Arabia, wide-scale activities by the Zionists in Soviet Azerbaijan, as well as cultural activities by Britain and other western countries in other Soviet Muslim republics, suspicious movements by the Wahhabis in Pakistan, and comprehensive efforts by the U.S., British and French intelligence services to create anti-Iran atmospheres such as attributing the assassination of ex-premier Shahpour Bakhtiar to Iran. True that these events are independent but the root cause of all of them is to put Islamic Iran under more and more pressure.

The explicit remarks made by the leader on the issue of Palestine and the so-called international peace conference, as well as the remarks made by the foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati at the U.N. General Assembly on the question of Palestine are among the major issues prompting the concern and wrath of the big powers, particularly the United States.

In striving in drawing our foreign policy we should prefer principled and long-term policies to short-term interests. No one rejects the importance of maintaining economic ties with Germany for carrying out our economic development projects, but economic growth and implementation of these projects would have their value when in doing so the principles of the Islamic Republic are also observed.

Experience has shown that governments such as Britain, Germany and Italy have on various occasions preferred

their foreign policy principles to economic interests. For example, Germany despite enjoying very good economic ties with Iran and despite its earlier commitment, abandoned the Bushehr nuclear project of Iran only to serve the interests of the United States and the West. Or in the recent case of the Frankfurt Book Exhibition, they suddenly submitted to the demand of the United States and the Zionists and withdrew their invitation to Iranian publishers.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in dealing with such issues, should employ effective means and take more active stances. True that for the cause of economic development, cooperation with advanced countries such as Germany is an essential, yet the international situation is such that replacements are also possible.

In drawing up her economic relations, Iran can act in such a way that have more maneuvering power and these relations would not cause a passive stance in her diplomacy. We should at the same time realise that all of us are duty bound to create circumstances in which we could preserve our country's vital interests.

Phase I of Arak Petrochemical To Become Operational

92AS0222A Tehran SALAM in Persian 20 Oct 91 p 11

[Text] Qom—SALAM correspondent—The minister of petroleum made this announcement Thursday at a question-and-answer session with seminary students and clergymen at the Islamic Propaganda Office of Qom Seminary.

Based on planned projections, the value of petrochemical products at the end of the Five-year Plan will be \$3 billion, and the value of Arak's production out of this total will be \$350 million in Phase I and \$500 million in subsequent periods.

Mr. Aqazadeh discussed the Ministry of Petroleum's programs to substitute natural gas energy in domestic consumption. He said:

With the expansion of the national gas delivery network, the number of gas service lines turned over to the people increased from 200,000 soon after the triumph of the revolution to 1.7 million lines in 140 cities. In the first Five-Year Plan the gas delivery network will cover 210 cities, and in the second Five-Year Plan all the nation's cities and most of the villages in the network's path will also have gas.

In explaining the sensitive conditions and the special state of the Persian Gulf area in international economic exchanges, the minister of petroleum emphasized the need to strengthen the nation's political and economic position. He added:

As the holder of two-thirds of the world's energy resources, in the next 100 years the Persian Gulf area will continue to occupy a fateful position in the world's economy, and if the Islamic Republic wants to have a

powerful position in the area, it must reclaim its position and fateful status by putting the economic sector into motion and strengthening the nation's economy.

Continuing this session, the minister of petroleum answered various questions from the seminary students and clergy concerning the Ministry of Petroleum's programs on the world market, the presence of Iranian specialists in Kuwait, and the possibility of the private sector being active in the oil industry.

Mr. Aqazadeh was asked if the role of OPEC will weaken on the world market in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis. He said:

OPEC has undergone crises at various times, but due to the world's economic dependence on this organization and the importance of the role OPEC has played in stabilizing oil, OPEC has maintained a strong footing throughout all the crises of the 70's, 80's and 90's. Its decisions as the only organization connected with the Third World nations having economic power have had an impact on the international economy, and it will maintain this position. My own inference is that currently OPEC's role remains the same in the international market.

The minister of petroleum then discussed the importance of the presence of Iranian specialists in Kuwait and their role in capping runaway wells. He said: With the creation of work opportunities for Iranian experts and with the outstanding achievement they have made with respect to efficiency, meaning that the Iranian experts have had the best record, in some cases putting out burning wells in eight hours, Iranian experts have shown the people of the world that Iran is the only nation in the Persian Gulf region that manages its oil industries with domestic experts.

In answer to a question about the possibility of private-sector activity in the oil industry, Mr. Aqazadeh noted: In the area of building refineries and oil products, because of the high levels of financial ability and expertise needed by these industries, the private sector is not able to operate in this sector. On the one hand these sectors are considered mother industries, and transferring the ownership of these sectors requires Majles legislation and law, and with regard to oil reserves also, there is no question about turning the matter over to the private sector, because the oil reserves are considered national capital, and the people own them entirely. Apart from the above, however, we are willing to turn over to the private sector some small units such as small motor-oil-making units, gasoline pumps, and some of the oil distribution sectors. In the petrochemical area also, we can turn units with up to \$250 million in capital over to the private sector, and we now have nine such projects in mind, but so far the private sector has not been able to enter into these activities, and again it has been government organizations such as the Industries Organization, the Foundation for the Oppressed, and the Islamic Propaganda Organization who have gotten involved in

the industry in some way, but the necessary readiness has yet to be seen in the private sector. The question however, is that they should be active to the extent permitted by the Constitution. Concerning the involvement or the lack thereof by foreign specialists in the Ministry of Petroleum's projects. He said: Currently all phases of exploration, drilling, production, export, and sale of the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil are being carried out by domestic specialists.

Foreign experts are involved only as contractors who have signed contracts with the Islamic Republic of Iran to complete part of the oil industry projects, and after they carry out their contracted projects and deliver the work to the Ministry of Petroleum, these companies will have no presence of any kind in the oil industry sectors, including the petrochemical industries.

In conclusion, the minister of petroleum discussed the goals of the Esfahan Conference and the reason for its attendance by American companies. He said: The Esfahan Conference was held with the aim of bringing about face-to-face talks between oil producers and consumers, and it was an innovation in this area, and the attendance by the American companies at this conference is also because of our work relationship with these companies, because there has never been a year when we did not sell oil to America. Even when the American economic embargo of Iran was in effect, we sold oil to American companies. The relationship we have with these companies is a working relationship, not a political relationship, and the fact that a newspaper printed some things about this is not relevant, because the quality of the Esfahan Conference was high in terms of the number of participants and their role in the international oil market, and the world has praised this initiative of ours. In any case, there must be criticism to improve the work.

Zamzam Company Faces Closure Due to Pollution

92AS0162F Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Sep '91 p 12

[Text] Social Department—Following repeated complaints from the residents in the vicinity of the Zamzam Company, which have been continuing since the year 1353 [21 March 1974-20 March 1975], a warning to this company has been issued by the Sixth Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran.

The public relations office of the Sixth Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran reports that based on this warning, officials of the Zamzam Company must either create a sewage system and eliminate the environmental hazards or move the company to another place.

Based on this report, since its very inception (1336 [21 March 1957-20 March 1958]) the Zamzam Company has brought complaints from the public and residents of the Azadi Street area for failing to observe health standards, polluting the environment, and threatening the health of citizens. It has been given serious warnings

repeatedly by the Environmental Protection Organization and the Province Health and Treatment Office. Unfortunately, however, the company's executive director has taken no steps on this account.

This report states that in the event of failure to heed the above, the Zamzam Company will be prevented from further operations out of consideration for the well-being of residents, to alleviate damage to the environment, and likewise in response to the request from the Tehran Province Central Environment Office and the Tehran Construction and Offensive Industry Removal Organization.

Effects of Air Pollution on Agriculture in Khuzestan

92AS0129C *Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Oct 91 p 9*

[Text] Air pollution is now being felt in the city of Ahvaz more than at any other time.

Smoke from the burning oil wells and installations in Kuwait on the one hand, and the existence of sources of air pollution in the area on the other have increased air pollution in the city of Ahvaz, so that the amount of air pollution in this city has exceeded permissible standards.

The activities of several companies and factories polluting the environment, including 20 units with smokestacks, are exceeding the allowed limits for air emissions. Other elements playing a part in the air pollution of Ahvaz include 20 stone crushers and stone cutters, and brick kilns.

Likewise, gas produced in the extraction of oil from the numerous wells in the oil fields to the north of Ahvaz are having great effects increasing this pollution.

Black rain in the Province of Khuzestan and other cities in the nation, apart from the problems it causes for the people, has also brought losses to the region's agricultural crops, especially in the Azadegan Plain region. About 9,000 hectares of cultivated land in the Azadegan Plain region have been covered by black rain, leaving a relatively thin film of material on the soil, cultivated land and the agricultural crops and causing damage to the crops.

The effects from the burning oil wells in Kuwait on the various crops, including vegetables and summer crops, broad beans, wheat and barley are entirely evident in the Municipality of Behbahan.

The effects of black rain on pastures have been 100 percent undesirable, and according to the experts this will cause severe declines in production in coming years. It has been especially destructive on corn and alfalfa producing sites in cities such as Behbahan and Ahvaz.

Sewage, Industrial Waste Pour Into Caspian Sea Daily

92WN0103Z *Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Oct 91 p 8*

[Interview with "Abedini," deputy financial director of the national environmental protection agency, by IRNA; place and date not given]

[Text] With the allocation of 470 million rials in funds from the national projects funds, the implemental operation of the center for environmental research of the west of Mazandaran began in Chalus.

With the equipping of this center, experts and researchers will be active in the areas of microbiology and the pollution of the air and waters of the Caspian Sea.

"Abedini," the deputy financial director of the national environmental protection agency, at the end of these ceremonies said in an interview with IRNA: By the end of the first Five-Year Plan, 10 billion rials in funds will have been spent on the creation of 14 large environmental research projects throughout the country.

He said: In addition, with 2.5 billion rials in funds, four environmental research and study centers will be completed and put into operation in the provinces of Eastern Azarbaijan, Khorasan and Fars by the end of this year.

Referring to the statement that the environmental protection agency completes and perpetuates the development of economic activities, he emphasized the importance of teaching the people about protecting the environment.

It is worthy of note that according to studies that have been conducted by the environmental agency of Mazandaran, because a sewer-processing system is not being used, by 10 factories in the province of Mazandaran alone, every 24 hours more than 15,830,000 liters of raw sewage and waste water is poured into the Caspian Sea.

Also, annually, more than 20,000 kg of various kinds of pesticides, which ultimately play a significant role in the destruction of the environment and pollution of the coastal waters of the Caspian Sea, are used in the agricultural lands in that province.

Commentary Praises Efforts To Increase Copper Exports

NC1611113091 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0448 GMT 13 Nov 91*

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. Today more than ever we are witnessing an increase in nonoil exports from Iran. An increase of 103 percent in nonoil exports in the last seven months is evidence of a change in the mechanism of production and is of immense importance. In today's commentary we will discuss the third nonoil export commodity: copper. [passage omitted]

Iran is situated in the copper belt of the world and has immense potential. The Sarcheshmeh copper mines with reserves of 1,200 million metric tons with an average carat of 7 percent are the second-largest copper mines in the world. Copper is a metal that is of immense economic value and has resulted in a saving of foreign exchange. Copper is a stable investment and with regard to the number of workers and the high level of the

production has resulted in a dazzling increase in the national income. [passage omitted]

Last year the Sarcheshmeh copper complex produced more than 94,000 metric tons and the figure is expected to rise to 120,000 tons this year. Copper exports rank third in nonoil exports behind carpets and dry fruit. Iran has earned \$54 million from these products in the first half of this year.

The extraction of copper—which has a high level of purity—also has a complete group of byproducts. Iran, despite its location in the copper belt and having the second largest mine in the world, has not been able to capitalize on this industry. The current methods of extraction are far more complicated and expensive as compared to former methods. Lack of technology and a proper budget spawn numerous difficulties in the production of the country's minerals, especially copper.

The Five-Year Plan, which envisaged the attainment of a capacity of 450,000 metric tons, requires advanced techniques with experienced specialists in this area so that the country's minerals may be tapped to the maximum.

On the other hand, we know that Iranian soil, because of its distinctive geographical location, has an abundance of valuable minerals that can serve as considerable backing for industrial advancement in the coming years.

The necessary steps have not been taken to discover and extract more copper reserves—apart from the Sarcheshmeh copper. There are no precise figures on the extent of the copper deposits or a definite program for their extraction. We hope that the country's officials will take swift measures for the discovery and extraction of all the reserves of this valuable mineral.

New Managing Director of KHORASAN Appointed

92AS0222B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Oct 92 p 3

[Text] By order of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahimian, deputy director of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hoseyn Ghazali was appointed managing director of the newspaper KHORASAN.

The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Martyr Foundation reports that the text of the order is as follows:

In the Name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hoseyn Ghazali (may his life be long):

In view of your admirable characteristics and knowledge, and your useful experience in cultural affairs, you are hereby appointed managing director of the newspaper KHORASAN.

It is hoped that with the critical mission of the press in clarifying various aspects of the Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him) and preserving the revolutionary

spirit and the Hezbollah nation's quest for martyrdom in continuing the struggle against world imperialist plots, with inspiration from the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Emam Khomeyni (peace be upon him), and with the cooperation of committed intellectuals and writers, you will manage this newspaper in a worthy manner in the best interest of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the framework of the press laws.

Dye Companies To Be Relocated

92AS0162G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] Esfahan—RESALAT correspondent—In enforcing the Environment Improvement Law and to transfer polluting industries in the environment from the urban and rural areas to designated areas, all the traditional dyeing units in the village of Jushfan will gradually close their former sites and be transferred to new sites. There are 14 of these dye units.

Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul Train To Begin Operations

92AS0160E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Oct 91 p 14

[Interview with Engineer Sadeq Afshar, deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by reporters; place and date not given]

[Text] Economic division. The Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul passenger train will officially begin operations on Tuesday, 16 Mehr [8 October]; and next week, specifically, 23 Mehr [15 October], passengers can depart for Istanbul and Ankara.

Engineer Sadeq Afshar, the deputy minister of roads and transport and director general of the railroads of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made this announcement in a press, radio, and television interview with reporters, stating the goal of operating the Tehran-Ankara-Istanbul train as the creation of better communications between the neighboring countries and also facilitating travel for people, with attention to the problems and limitations existent in international transportation by buses. He also said: As a result of the emphasis of the ministers of roads and transports of Iran and Turkey in the Mordad [23 July-22 August] meeting of last year, this train will begin operations. By activating the Razi border for the entry and exit of train passengers, all three railroad crossing borders, including Jolfa, through the Tehran-Moscow train, and the Mirjaveh border, through the Koviteh-Zahedan train, will be active.

Concerning the procedure to buy tickets for this train, he said: The ticket is prepurchased one month ahead of time, one way, in rials. Also, passengers must purchase their return ticket from the Turkish railroads in Istanbul and Ankara in Turkish lira.

The price of a Tehran-Ankara ticket is 7,250 rials, and from Tehran to Istanbul, 7,750 rials, in addition to 40,000 rials for "services outside the border trains."

Also, a ticket from Ankara to Tehran is sold in foreign currency, which is equivalent to 151.74 Swiss francs, and from Istanbul to Tehran, 156.07 Swiss francs.

In addition, all passengers are responsible for presenting their passports to the security office of the railroads, and obtaining a receipt, anywhere from four days to one week prior their departure.

In regards to the delivery of the luggage and additional cargo of passengers, Mr. Afshar said: Passengers with more than one handbag and a purse to declare must take them to the southern customs on the Tuesday or Wednesday of the week prior to traveling for inspection and control and to be loaded on the cars.

In regards to the capacity of these trains, he said: The train that the Islamic Republic of Iran has decided to place on this line is a fast train that includes nine first-class, 36-passenger express cars, with a total capacity of 324 passengers, of which 54 are set aside for the Azarbaijan area.

The director general of the railroads also said: After the payment of the legal taxes, the passengers may go to the ticket booth at the east side of the railroad square in Tehran to purchase their tickets.

In conclusion, he pointed out: The tickets and passports of passengers on the Tabriz-Razi route will be controlled on the train by the security officer.

Commentary on Price of Chicken

92AS0162B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Oct 91 p 15

[Text] With more than two months gone by since poultry prices were deregulated, prices are still fluctuating at a relatively high level. With the marketing of domestic and import frozen chicken, the market has been affected and prices have dropped about 20 percent compared to last month.

The sale of domestic frozen chicken at 1,580 rials per kilogram and imported frozen chicken at 1,500 and 1,250 rials shows that the finished price of chicken is higher than the guaranteed price announced by those working on the deregulation project for the purpose of supporting its producers.

Likewise, the poultry imports since the price increases show that the project officials did not have a correct sense of the production resources and the market situation, and consequently, since the project was implemented, the market has been beset by disruption and disorganization. Issues like this have brought with them serious problems, which will be cited below.

1. Failure to correctly anticipate the market and escalating prices first of all brought pressure on consumers

during this period, and consequently they came to be pessimistic and without confidence in the outcome of implementing the project, and secondly goods were sold at artificial prices, and this made it difficult to adjust prices.

2. The announcement of 1,000 rials per kilogram of poultry as the guaranteed price to be paid to producers, which is actually based on the cost of producing the product plus a reasonable profit, created public expectations based on this price, while the study of poultry prices in domestic and foreign markets shows that this price was not carefully calculated, and that it was set lower than the real value. This has led to a lack of public confidence in the officials of the project, as well as those marketing the poultry.

3. The mechanism of price guarantees, intended to inspire confidence in the producer and to assure him that he will make a profit (however little) under any conditions that might arise, does not inspire the necessary confidence and have the desired effects when the price is lower than the cost of producing.

4. Since based on the project and for the purpose of supporting the deprived and vulnerable classes, the difference between the price of rationed poultry (which will no longer be available) and the guaranteed price was the criterion for the payment of the difference, and the difference paid was less than the true difference between these two prices, unless this decision is changed full and sufficient support will not be provided for the deprived classes.

5. In explaining its policies, the secretary of the Economic Council said concerning the deregulation of poultry prices that henceforth with each announcement of an issue of ration coupons, cash subsidies will be paid to consumers instead of poultry, but such a thing has not yet been done, while the deprived and oppressed classes must purchase this item at prices much higher than the ones before deregulation.

Timber Production To Increase

92WN0103Y Tehran ABRAR in Persian 20 Oct 91 p 9

[Text] The level of timber production in the forests of the northern part of the country will increase to 4 million cubic meters annually by the end of 1372 [20 March 1994], and in the implementation of the transfer projects of the forests this year, more than 200,000 hectares of forests in the northern part of the country will be transferred to the owners of industries and the private sector. In this connection, in addition to the imposition of government policy, with the investments by the private sector, the volume of forestry productions will increase and the grounds for the creation of jobs on a large scale will be prepared for the oppressed people of the region.

According to IRNA, the total potential production of the forests in the northern part of the country, under proper

management and revitalization of the destroyed forest areas and also by making use of advanced technology, is estimated at 10 to 12 million cubic meters annually. The commercial forests in the northern part of the country at the present time cover an area of 1.9 million hectares. So far, for about 1.1 million hectares of it, an implemental project has been prepared. Timber production from the forests in the northern part of the country last year was 1.7 million cubic meters. This figure is expected to increase to 2.3 million cubic meters in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992]. At the present time, 700,000 hectares of the prepared implemental projects are active, and a large portion of the implemental projects is being transferred to the private sector and the forest-dwelling cooperatives. In the continuation of this interview, Fallah referred to the programs of the national forestry and pastures agency as well as forest planting and the creation of green belts and pointed out: The level under forest planning before the Islamic revolution was 43,000 hectares annually and since the victory of the Islamic revolution, 160,000 hectares. But this future this year will reach 100,000 hectares. According to Engineer Fallah, the level of production of saplings this year is 140 million, of which 20 million will be produced by the private sector.

Tire, Aluminum Industries Seen as Vital for Growth

NC1011191591 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0440 GMT 10 Nov 91*

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani paid a one-day visit to Saveh to inspect the Kaveh industrial town's plants and production units and to be briefed on the system of industrial towns and the significance of the tire and aluminum plants by industrial town officials.

Kaveh industrial town covers 2,200 hectares and is situated 120 km southwest of Tehran. It was built on the basis of the 1352 [year beginning 21 March 1973] agreement in 1365 [year beginning 21 March 1986] with more than 100 million rials. Some 300 plants are to be built in each of the first and second phases of this project. Only the first phase of 150 plants is currently operating.

Kaveh industrial town consists of four industrial groups—steel industries, textile and clothing industries, chemical and cellulose plants, and construction and mining. This has a noteworthy impact on the country's economic growth.

Kaveh's Alumpars Plant is unique in the country with its production of plain and colored aluminum sheets used in the country's food and packaging industries. The tire

manufacturing plant with its nominal output of 40,000 tons per year has been able to meet a large part of the country's needs.

In general we can say that aluminum and many of its by-products are of special significance in world industry because of their light weight and low melting point. They are used a great deal in the car, aircraft, helicopter, and ship industries and especially in the military industries. Aluminum is now placed next to the world's basic materials—oil, iron, and copper—and it ranks second in usage after iron.

In view of its high value and the employment possibilities it offers Iran, this product can be of great significance in attracting manpower. The emphasis placed on this product in the first five-year plan led to an improvement in its quality, so much so that during the past two months aluminum was listed as an export metal on the London Stock Exchange. Forecasts predict that aluminum production will increase from the current 120,000 ton to 220,000 tons by the end of the five-year plan.

Parallel with this, the large tire manufacturing plant plays an important role together with Alumpars factory in the country's economic development. Transportation of international cargo over land boundaries and the storage of goods in various parts of Iran speak of the importance of tires in the expansion of intercity and international relations. Iran carries 5 million tons of cargo over the country's various borders. Increased tire production will not only set the wheels of the country's economy into action, but will also lead to economizing in foreign exchange.

On the whole we can say that the significance of industrial towns is that they will be able to attract manpower, reduce unemployment, and increase nonoil exports. These ends can be achieved by gathering various industries in one spot.

Increased industrial plants in the country's first economic development can be achieved by increasing the number of industrial towns, which will encourage high-quality investments by the private sector. According to some economic experts, the multirate system of foreign exchange in the country inflicts a serious blow on domestic production. This important issue calls for accelerated action by the government and officials in stabilizing the country's economic situation. Meanwhile, our country has rich aluminum resources and investments are needed in its exploration and technology to prevent imports and to help use our own expert force.

The president's visit to Saveh was aimed at studying the problems faced in production and in the expansion of industrial towns. It is hoped that this visit will overcome existing problems as soon as possible since the necessary potential for the growth of industry and industrial towns exist to a sufficient degree in the country. But this needs more government attention in attracting errant capital.

Commentary Advocated Improving Tourism

92AS0248B Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 5 Nov 91 p 2

[Text] A goodly number of countries in the world earn a major portion of national income through their tourism industries. The developing countries made some \$55 billion from tourism during 1988, which marked it as the biggest source of income after oil. According to available statistics, in 1979 Iran took in \$201m in foreign exchange through tourism. But during the years after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, there has been a sharp decline in the number of tourists travelling to Iran and consequently in the country's tourism income. Iran's revenue in 1983 was a paltry \$35m.

It is amply clear that tourism plays an important role with respect to any country's transfer of values, exchange of experiences and introduction of cultural and historical traditions.

After more than a decade of the stagnation of this industry in Iran—mainly due to the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution, eight years of Iraqi imposed war, the negative political propaganda war waged against Islamic Iran and imposition of economic sanctions on the country—it is necessary to revive tourism in this historical and culturally rich country.

In addition, when foreign tourists come to Iran, they can closely observe the social, political and economic conditions of the Iranian people and thus convey the true message from Iran to their homelands.

Being endowed with a variety of tourist attractions, such as historical monuments, beautiful natural settings, differences of customs and cultures, as well as unique art and handicrafts, Iran can easily regain its position in the world of tourism with proper planning and management.

It is predicted that by the end of the first five-year development plan in March 1994, the number of tourists visiting the country will reach 318,000. This represents a 298 percent increase in comparison with the figure for tourists visiting Iran in 1988. Such a boost necessitates new investments, both by the government and private sectors, in the construction of new hotels and facilities throughout the country and particularly in tourist attraction areas which do not have such facilities.

Finally, the organizations which are involved in tourism, such as the Iranian Tourism Organization (ITO) affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and Azadi International Tourism Organization (AITO), affiliated with the Mustazafan and Janbazan Foundation (Oppressed People and War Disabled Foundation) should better introduce the country's tourist attractions. In this way Iran can attract more and more tourists to the country from all corners of the globe.

Commentary Sees Need To Increase Exports

NC1011200191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT
9 Nov 91

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] In today's commentary we will discuss the country's nonoil exports in the first seven months of the current year [21 March-22 October 1991]. Nonoil exports doubled over the same period last year and passed the \$1 billion mark. The major nonoil export items were carpets, pistachio nuts, copper, pelts, refined sulfur, cast iron, clothing, and fresh fruit.

To diversify the country's income resources, the government has focused special attention on expanding nonoil exports. Since crude oil exports form our country's major source of income it can be described as our most serious weak point and biggest vulnerability. Therefore, the government's general policy is to gradually reduce its dependence on oil income and end the economy's dependence on only one item. To achieve this objective, foreign trade and nonoil exports are of special importance.

A country's economic growth and expansion largely depend on its trade and exports. The less a country's economy depends on one product the less it will be vulnerable.

Since our country has many potential goods to export, the need to organize and program exports is extremely important. Even though the government has taken important steps to decrease the problems faced by exporters in comparison with past years, some red tape and bureaucracy in the State Customs still exist.

Achieving an active presence in world markets and finding markets for Iranian exports should always receive special attention by exporters. Iran's policy of focusing attention on expanding contacts with the Muslim-inhabited Soviet republics, paying special attention to expanding economic and cultural relations, has created a good opportunity for Iranian exporters to gain access to a major part of the very strong market in these republics and to start planning the necessary steps. At the outset of the second Baku Industrial and Trade Fair our active and noteworthy presence can yield favorable outcomes in the sale of Iranian products and in introducing our country's industrial capabilities.

There are several determining factors as far as improving nonoil exports is concerned. Among these are ensuring high standards of goods and better packing, setting value added prices for items that are exported as raw materials, advertising our export items, since according to export experts most countries are not acquainted with Iranian products; and delivering goods in a timely manner.

These are among the points exporters should pay attention to. The country's transportation network also plays an important role in exports.

Comprehensive and long-term planning, determination of an export strategy, and better use of the country's relative advantages in production can help gain access to markets and help the country's economy develop and flourish.

Mazandaran Antinarcotics Activities Detailed

924S0162E Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Babol—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent—Through the efforts of the political ideology section of the Security Forces of Mazandaran and Babol District, officials of this force met with the people of the city of Babol at that city's congregational mosque.

At this meeting, attended by the commander of the Mazandaran Province Security Forces and province and city officials of the political ideology section of the security forces, problems and issues were studied and questions from the people were answered concerning the antinarcotics campaign.

It is worth saying that at the end of this meeting the commander of the Mazandaran Province Security Forces discussed the activities of these forces in the area of the antinarcotics campaign.

He said: Since the security forces were consolidated, 6,846 people have been arrested, and 403 kg of opium, 8 kg of hashish, 8 kg of heroin, 2 kg of opium juice, 6 kg of burnt opium, 69 kg of grass, 74 passenger cars, one minibus, four trucks, 47 motorcycles, 32 hunting weapons, eight sidearms, and 232,323 packages of cigarettes were taken from them and confiscated.

In conclusion he emphasized the organization of a seminar on the antisocial corruption campaign, attended by the appropriate officials in the province, concerning security forces efforts to deal with degenerate Western corruption in Mazandaran Province.

Narcotics Seized in Khorasan

92WD0061U Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 91 p 9

[Text] In an armed clash between Khorasan security forces and narcotics smugglers, 520 kg of opium, 1 kg of heroin, and 5 heavy and light weapons were confiscated in the Saleh Abad area of Torbat-e Jam. In this clash, which took place in the heights of Chah Osman of the Saleh Abad precinct of Torbat-e Jam, a large smuggler caravan was destroyed as the result of heavy fire by security forces, and the merchants of death used the cover of night to flee across the border, leaving behind the aforementioned narcotics, five weapons, 1,200 rounds of ammunition of various kinds, four RPG-7

rockets, 200,000 rials in cash, and 10 horses. In this clash a soldier from security forces was martyred and a smuggler was destroyed.

Official Details Plan To Control Addicts, Smugglers

92WD0061Z Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] News Service—The Project to Monitor and Control Smugglers and Addicts has been put into force in Tehran. Based on this project, after their release from prison these people are required to report to the Monitor and Control Unit of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security District on Azadi Street.

Mr. Khalil Hariri announced this at a press conference around noon yesterday. He said: With cooperation obtained from judicial officials, henceforth after their release from prison smugglers and addicts will be led to this office to fill out special forms, and in their free time, which might be weekly or monthly, they will be required to report to this office.

The chief of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security Zone said the aim of this project is to control and supervise addicts to keep them from falling back into the trap of addiction and also to get their cooperation in identifying and arresting other merchants of death.

According to him, to get maximum control over addicts, after their release from prison and getting information about their situation, their homes will also be inspected, even in the form of surprise and sudden visits.

He emphasized: Smugglers and addicts who do not report to this office after release will be dealt with harshly.

Continuing his remarks, Mr. Hariri, chief of the Antinarcotics Office of the Greater Tehran Security Zone, discussed the activities of this office since the consolidation of security forces (from 1/15 to 6/31/1370 [4 April-22 September 1991]). He said: In this period officials have broken up 60 procurement and distribution networks and confiscated more than 2 tons and 400 kg of various narcotics, mostly hashish and opium.

He said: In this connection 721 narcotics smugglers have been arrested, and based on the Government Interests Discernment Assembly Law, most of them must be executed.

He added: A leader of one of the destroyed gangs was named Mehdi Darab, and in this connection, with the arrest of 15 members of the gang, 600 kg of hashish were confiscated.

Noting that this individual is also one of the evil persons in the West Tehran region, Mr. Hariri said: This gang did a large part of the hashish distribution in Tehran, and the case is being investigated. Continuing, he noted that since the consolidation plan began, 7,856 addicts have

been arrested in Greater Tehran. He said: During this period, 60 vehicles of various kinds, 329 video devices along with 1,112 videotapes, 12 war weapons, and about 17 million tomans cash have been taken and confiscated from the defendants.

In conclusion, Mr. Hariri praised and thanked the martyr-nurturing nation, which has helped the security forces in some way, and he asked that this help continue.

He asked families to exercise the supervision needed to monitor their children.

Judicial Police Merge With Law Enforcement Force

LD2111072491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Nov 91

[Text] As of the beginning of next Azar [22 November], the Judicial Police will be merged with the Law Enforcement Force. Mr. Rahmani, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and head of the politico-ideological organization of the Law Enforcement Force, made the announcement at a news conference in Hamedan today. He said: As of 1 Azar this year, the Judicial Police will be merged with the Law Enforcement Force and Law Enforcement personnel will act as executive arms of the Judiciary.

PAKISTAN

Rift Between Sharif, IJI Seen Over Sharia Laws

92AS0011G Lahore ZINDGI in Urdu 12 Sep 91 pp 4, 5

[Editorial: "Prime Minister and Jamaat-i Islami"]

[Text] Mian Nawaz Sharif, president of Islami Jamhoori Ittehad (IJI) and prime minister of Pakistan, visited the head of Jamaat-i Islami (JI) at Mansura along with some of his associates last week. He met with Qazi Hussein Ahmed and his associates for four hours. Teacups clinked, whole chickens were consumed, and Qazi Ahmed led the namaz during this meeting. Both sides opened up their hearts. Mr. Nawaz Sharif shared his complaints and told everything about his objection to statements and steps taken by Qazi Hussein Ahmed, who also shared his complaints about the IJI.

The stand of the Jamaat-i Islami was not hidden, and details of this have been published in the newspaper. The resolution passed in the first shoorā, and the public speeches made at the 50th anniversary of the JI had brought everything out into the open. The JI complained that the IJI was not fully organized. It said that the announcement that the prime minister made in Parliament of his plan to make Koranic laws the supreme law of the nation was not implemented. The government did not stop the dangerous action taken against the members of the JI and Islami Jamiat-i Tulba. None of these actions are impossible, and they cannot be ignored as

inappropriate, either. After this four-hour meeting, a joint communique was issued. It was announced that a high-level committee would be established of the various parties within the IJI. This committee will be chaired by the prime minister himself. All constitutional and administrative reforms that were promised will be implemented, and strict action will be taken against those who murdered the JI members in Karachi. No criminal will be dealt with leniently and every one of them would be sentenced.

Thus, the danger of the clash between the IJI and the JI has been averted for the time being, and the talks about the ultimatum that the JI was planning to give to the IJI were also stopped. There are several political parties within the IJI; however, the main forces are the Muslim League and the JI. The Muslim League has a majority in the Parliament, and the JI is considered to be one of the largest political parties. Most of the "street power" that the IJI possesses is based on the JI members. The problem with the Muslim League is that it has too many influential party members. These people are very effective in election campaigns and have the courage and resources to run the election. They cannot be removed or rejected from Pakistan's election politics. The JI does not have professional election campaigners, but it has a voter bank spread all over the nation. A conservative estimate places the JI voters between 10 to 12 percent of the total population. The JI also has supporters among the students, laborers, and other effective groups. They provide the strength to the Muslim League that the JI lacks. These two parties, with the support of smaller religious parties, can unite to defeat the PPP [Pakistan People's Party]. Had these parties not combined their votes, the IJI would have lost some votes against the PPP, and the results of the election would have been entirely different.

If you review this whole situation from this perspective, then the establishment of the present government and other related aspects are the results of the united front created under the banner of the IJI. At the time the election campaign was in full swing, the leaders included in this coalition had assured the nation that they would remain united, and solve all problems as a group. All IJI candidates had participated in the election under one manifesto and one flag. Legally, they could be considered members of one political party. They themselves have repeatedly announced that they would work as one party until the new elections. These promises and claims now call for the IJI to work as one party until the next election. If there is strife among the parties included in it, then the coalition politics will be hurt, and the people will find it very hard to support any coalition in the future.

It is true that the present government is not exemplary or of high caliber; however, we should remember that it is easy to raise slogans about high standards and an exemplary government, but these cannot be attained in one day. Let alone the Taj Mahal, one cannot even build a half-acre house in one day. The present government is much better

than the PPP government. Even a blind man can tell the difference between the two governments.

Even now, the two powerful blocs of our national politics are the PPP and the Muslim League. If the democratic system prevails, then the Muslim League, now known as the IJI, can confront the PPP. Perhaps this is the reason that, in the recent JI public forum at Lahore's Mochi Darwaza, Professor Abdul Ghafur had zealously asked the audience if they were afraid of any political party or worried about its government. It appears that he knew deep down that the only alternative to the present government was the PPP government. The weakness of the present government would be considered the strength of the PPP. Thus, he was preparing the audience for the shock.

The affairs of the nation are not the same as playing with dolls, and we cannot set up a wedding party every day. Our national leaders and political parties should form the habit of thinking seriously. They should try to find solutions to the problems facing the nation. The PPP is not a better alternative for the IJI governments. The leaders should understand that just referring to the fear of the PPP is not enough to maintain their hold on the government permanently. While we do not condone embracing the PPP to apply pressure, we cannot praise the IJI's efforts to stay in power by using the opposition of the PPP as a crutch.

The IJI government should start implementing its election promises. The prime minister should constitutionally and legally keep his promise of making Koranic law the supreme law of the nation. This way, the trust in the government will be maintained.

Nuclear Program Claimed Vital to Security

92WP0046W Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu
24 Sept 91 p 10

[Article entitled, "Pakistan's Nuclear Program: Guarantor of Regional Peace"]

[Text] According to a newspaper report, the United States has agreed to accept Pakistan's nuclear program on an "as is" basis which means that Pakistan should retain all that it has prepared so far in the nuclear field but should proceed no further. Moreover, it should not convey its nuclear technology to any other country and sign the NPT [nonproliferation treaty] without waiting for India to sign the treaty. Reportedly, the United States is prepared to restore the suspended aid if Pakistan accepts these three conditions. Negotiations on this basis between Pakistan and the United States are expected to start in October. Pakistan's stand on the nuclear issue has always been that in view of India's nuclear preparations it is essential for Pakistan to have an nuclear deterrent. As matters stand, Pakistan is not able to defend itself with conventional weapons against India's conventional military strength because Pakistan's resources do not allow it to maintain large ground, naval

and air forces and to buy the latest armaments. Compared to Pakistan's, India's resources are unlimited. Moreover, after detonating an nuclear device in 1974 India has joined the nuclear age and more than a dozen Indian installations are busy night and day building nuclear weapons. According to the personal report of the former chief of the CIA, more than ten nuclear bombs have been built. India has a large store of enriched uranium which it can use to construct forty to a hundred nuclear bombs. Obviously, in the face of nuclear power, Pakistan cannot defend itself empty handed. Nuclear power has become an inescapable necessity for Pakistan. If the United States can understand that Pakistan needs an nuclear deterrent to defend itself and that such a deterrent can bring stability to the region, then it is the duty of the United States to treat India and Pakistan even handedly. If the U. S. Congress is ignoring India's nuclear program and exempting it from the Pressler amendment, then its announcement of restrictions on Pakistan is sheer bias and discrimination and against the internationally established rules of justice and fair play. It has been explained to the United States on several occasions that Pakistan's nuclear program is a peaceful one, that Pakistan harbors no aggressive designs and that Pakistan has never been and has no intention of becoming a colonial power. But Pakistan certainly wants to protect itself from becoming the target of aggression of a power with imperialist, colonialist and aggressive designs. Hence Pakistan has adopted an nuclear program as a deterrent. Pakistan's nuclear policy is a national policy as well because it was followed by past governments in spite of their differing political ideologies. Nevertheless, the opposition is using the nuclear program as an issue. The cochairperson of the People's Party borrowed the words of retiring U. S. ambassador Oakley the other day and said, "There is no need for us to go beyond a certain limit." Malik Qasim, the leader of PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] has also suggested that if the United States is willing to renew the terms of the 1959 agreement under which Pakistan's defense needs would be met, then the matter should be given consideration. The problem is that if the government accepts U. S. terms as suggested by the opposition, then the same opposition will raise a hue and cry from Karachi to Khyber that the government has sold out Pakistan's interests. Someone should ask the opposition as to why there is any need for the United States to renew the 1959 agreement. According to the latest reports, it is the Indian press which is spreading the propaganda that if Pakistan accepts U. S. terms on the nuclear issue, the United States would provide Pakistan with a defense umbrella against India. The question is that in view of the fact that during the visit to the United States of the Indian army's chief of staff an agreement was reached for a wider defense cooperation between the two countries, what need is there for the United States to sign an anti-India agreement with Pakistan? Pakistani politicians should not ignore the interests of the country and the nation for the sake of opposing the government. Pakistan's nuclear program is an inescapable necessity for its defense. If the United States is willing to talk on

these terms and accepts the need of an nuclear deterrent for maintaining peace in the area, an agreement can be reached on a regional basis. It should be an agreement in which India would also participate and there would be the same restrictions in India as on Pakistan. There can be no separate deal on Pakistan's defense alone.

Commentary Calls for Removal of All Trade Barriers

BK1711141191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 91

[Commentary by Omar Latif]

[Text] One of the major deterrents in growth of developing economies has been restrictions clamped in one form or the other by the industrialized nations in international trade. Advanced countries have been preaching tirelessly for full-thrust functioning of global economy without trade barriers and their terms of economic assistance to the developing countries contain free imports as a precondition. Steadily, the developing countries have been found vigorous in the dismantling of trade restrictions and even reducing duties on imports. For instance, Pakistan's foreign trade policy over the past several years has been (?fairly) liberal and has reached an extreme point in its pursuit. Further imports are now adversely hitting her industries and have become a barrier in further pace of industrialization. Similar have been glaring cases of almost all the developing nations. On the contrary, the thesis of free trade, the resting point of the developed economies, has been found seriously guarding their industries intact and has created numerous tariff restrictions on imports from developing countries. Quota system as aggressively being pursued by the West and other developed economies, particularly in the textile trade, is an example to quote.

By such restrictions, growth of the developing economies is being calculatedly checked and prevented. The classic concept of overall economic growth of the globe and benefits of the humanity inherently covered by the theory of comparative (?skills) is being demolished by the West through tariff laws and quota controls.

Pakistan, like all other countries, has been badly hit by duplicity of the developed nations in foreign trade policy

framework. Having suffered choking of its textile exports so often, Pakistan has given once more a resolute and clarion call at the United Nations to do away with trade barriers. Mr. Inqalab Nadvi, a member of Pakistani delegation to the present General Assembly session, has strongly advocated the need for reconciliation on rendering the world trade genuinely free from all barriers. Preaching can be useful after practicing the principles and setting such examples. Pakistan, having proved its track record clean on the subject, has the right in advocating for really free trade on strong footing. No doubt, welfare of masses living in [words indistinct] level in the developing world can be ushered by providing them the opportunity to produce more of the goods their economies are capable. This would spring into a keen competitive force to produce globally more and help improve standard of living in all nations.

Free trade policy needs to be observed globally and cannot function by its compartmentation. The West having strong economic muscles needs no such protection which it is intriguingly found very much fond of. Much of the foreign trade deficit and consequent underdevelopment of economies of the Third World countries, if assessed carefully, would be found due to their liberalized imports, while their exports being faced with numerous restrictions. To overcome foreign trade deficit of the developing countries, the World Bank and its affiliated agencies prescribe currency devaluation as the means to accelerate exports. This can serve the purpose provided the restrictions on imports were also simultaneously demolished by the leading economic nations. This is not being done, and, as a result, devaluation of currencies of the developing countries was simply resulting into massive transfer of resources from developing world to the developed countries. This was a total reversal of trade objectives, and for the purpose, trade was being used as an instrument of crude exploitation of the poor countries. It is high time that the developed countries took stock of their performance in the sphere of free world trade which they have been advocating so ardently. Reforms are required by the developed world in trade to be rendered genuinely free so as to allow developing nations unrestricted access to their markets. Let the developing world improve their lots through free world trade rather than aid process which brings a setback in ultimate.

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